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紫色の潔白
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Planet Ladder

1

Yuri Narushima

TOKYOPOP

Planet Ladder

Volume 1

Written and Illustrated by
Yuri Narushima

TOKYOPOP®

Los Angeles . Tokyo

Planet Ladder

CONTENTS

Planet Ladder.....7
Afterword.....203

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I AM BY YOUR SIDE.
EVEN IF YOU DESTROY THE WORLD I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE.
SEE U !!
KAGAMI !!

EVEN IF MY BODY IS DESTROYED...
SEE U !!
KAGAMI !!
EVEN IF YOU NEVER FORGIVE YOURSELF...
IDOU!!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!
WHERE ARE THOSE TWO?!
AS LONG AS THOSE TWO ARE ALIVE,
WE HAVE HOPE!!

WHEEL of FORTUNE

MY HEART
WILL FORGIVE
YOU FOR
ETERNITY...
XVI
THE TOWER

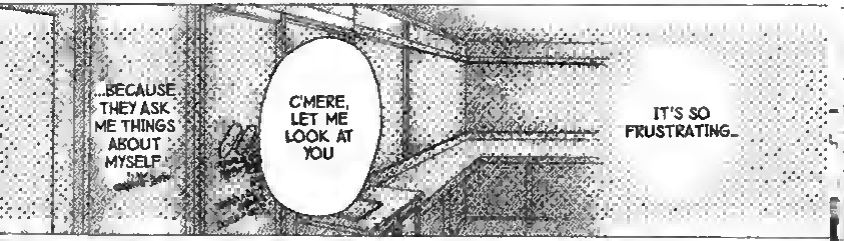
MY DREAM
ALWAYS BEGINS WITH A FLAME...
THE DREAM WHERE A BOY TAKES ME BY THE HAND.
IN THE DRAMA, BUT I'M IN SO MUCH PAIN I CAN'T STAND UP...
A BOY GIVES ME HIS HAND TO HELP ME.

THE LAST CARD IS ALWAYS BLANK.

OH, WELL.
C'MON!
HMPH!
GRR!
...IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
AM I REMEMBERING SOMETHING THAT REALLY HAPPENED?
BEEP BEEP!
TIME'S UP KAGUYA!
KAGUYA!
STOP HOGGING THE PHONE!
SAM'S JUST GOT AN ATTITUDE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE KAGUYA.
SORRY..
UH-
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING TO MAKE JUST ONE PHONE CALL?!
I MUST HAVE BEEN...
HMM...

I LOVE THAT SAM'S SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN!
THAT'S WHAT SHE'S REALLY GETTING AT.
AND THEN YOU'LL INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR MODELING AGENCY, RIGHT? ♡
IT'LL BE SO DRAMATIC!

IT'S NEVER EASY DEALING WITH NEW PEOPLE.


...BECAUSE THEY ASK ME THINGS ABOUT MYSELF.
C'MERE, LET ME LOOK AT YOU
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING...

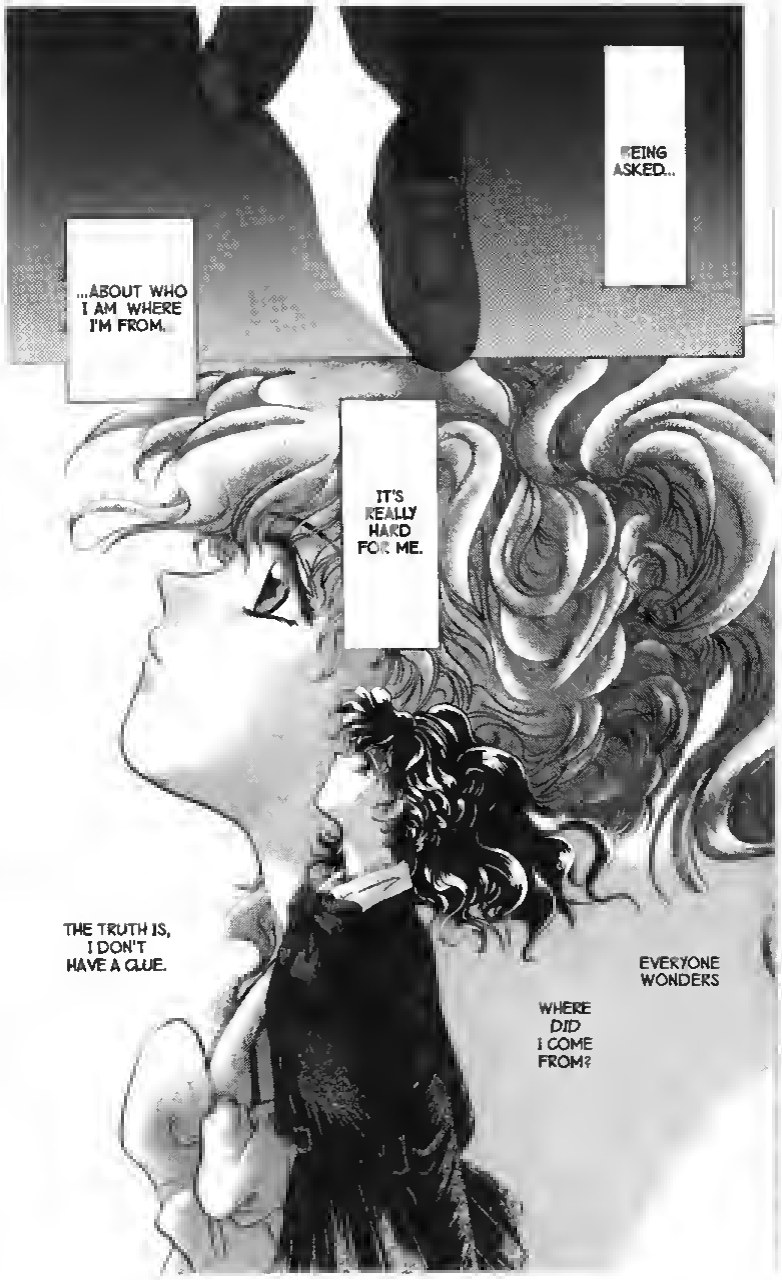
ARE YOUR EYES BLUE?
WHAT NATIONALITY ARE YOU?

BUT-
BUT I'M REALLY GONNA WORK ON BEING BRAVE!
.....
ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT PUTTING HER IN THE MODELING CLUB?

NO, REALLY.
I'M SORRY, SAM.
I DON'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT.
EVEN IF I MAKE UP MY MIND, IT TAKES ME 30 MINUTES TO GET THE GUTS TO GO THROUGH WITH ANYTHING!

YOUR REAL PARENTS WILL SHOW UP. YOU GUYS WILL MEET ON A CHEESY TV SHOW AND EVERYONE WILL CRY!
YOU'LL BE FAMOUS, KAGUYA!
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THOSE SCOUTS COME TO OUR SCHOOL.
A SCOUT FROM A GOOD AGENCY FINALLY CAME OUT. WHAT A WASTE!!

I THINK I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.
I KNOW MY NAME IS KAGUYA.
NOW, I AM KAGUYA HARUYAMA.
I WAS CRYING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD WHEN THEY FOUND ME.
THE POLICE BELIEVED I WAS AN ABANDONED ORPHAN

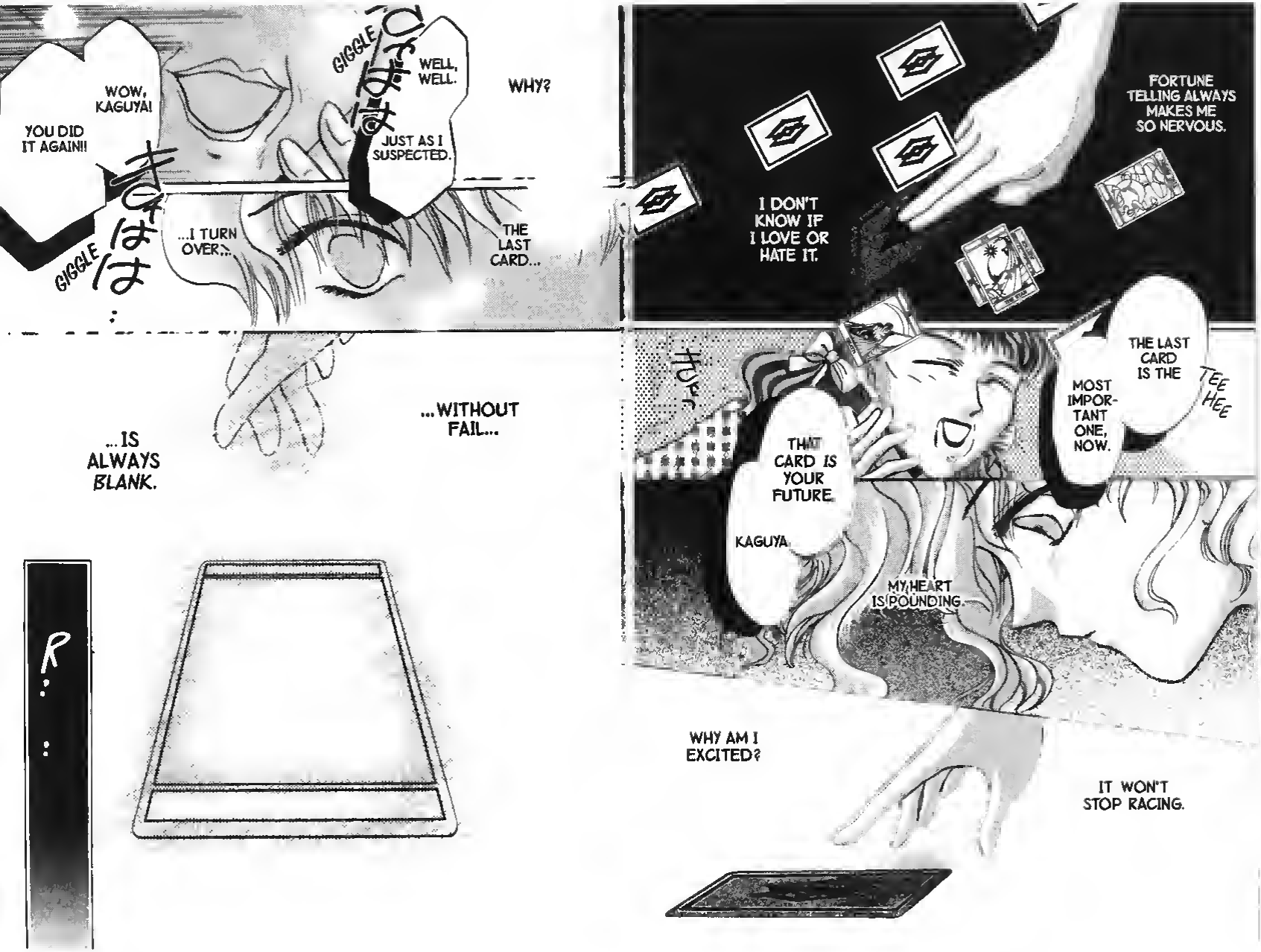

BEING ASKED...
...ABOUT WHO I AM WHERE I'M FROM.
IT'S REALLY HARD FOR ME.
THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE.
EVERYONE WONDERS
WHERE DID I COME FROM?

HURRY UP WITH THE VERIFI-CATION.
BEFORE SHE RUNS INTO TROUBLE.
THE PRINCESS, SHE'S THE BLACK HAIREO ONE.
THE BLACK-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED GIRL.
NOW, IF YOU WILL JUST LET ME VERIFY.
IDOU,
SHE'S PROBABLY...
I KNOW.

UM, OKAY.
AND WE MUST REDO YOUR PIGTAILS
LET'S GET YOU CHANGED RIGHT AWAY!
THEN WE'LL TELL YOUR FORTUNE OKAY SWEETIE?
KAGUYA!
STEP
I'M HOME!
STEP
STEP
WELL... WELCOME HOME, LITTLE KAGUYA.
IT WASN'T SCARY OUTSIDE NOW, WAS IT?
IT'S JUST DREADFUL HOW YOU'RE WEARING ALL BLACK!
NO, MOTHER, NOT AT ALL.
BUT YOUR LITTLE RIBBON IS JUST ADORABLE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? ARE YOU GOING TO PUT UP WITH MOM FOREVER?
IT'S SO ANNOYING!
SHE PLAYS WITH HER ADOPTED DAUGHTER LIKE A LITTLE GIRL PLAYING WITH A DOLL.
IS THAT NORMAL FOR A 42 YEAR-OLD LADY?
BROTHER!
YOU'RE HOME EARLY TODAY.

ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK!
THINK FOR YOURSELF, KAGUYA.
AND MAYBE YOU CAN STOP BEING HER TOY.
ARE YOU A DOLL? HOW CAN YOU LET HER TREAT YOU LIKE THAT?!
NO WONDER OUR OLD MAN SPENDS ALL THIS TIME AT THE OFFICE
IT'S TO GET AWAY FROM THAT CRAZY WOMAN!
BUT, MOTHER IS...
I DON'T THINK SHE'S CRAZY.
FATHER IS A BUSY BANKER SO WE HAVE A LOT OF MONEY.
HE BUYS MOTHER ANYTHING SHE ASKS FOR.
.....
I REALLY DON'T THINK HE'S RIGHT.
OUR MAID DOES ALL THE HOUSEWORK.
SO MOTHER NEVER FEELS LIKE DOING ANYTHING.
EVERYONE SAYS WE'VE GOT IT MADE.
LONELY...
SOR..
I'M SORRY..
SHUT UP!! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
YOU APOLOGIZE FOR EVERYTHING!! IT'S PATHETIC!
UH-OH

THE FIRST TIME WAS AN ACCIDENT.
THE DECK OF SPARE CARDS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN CUT ALREADY.
MY MOTHER LOVES FORTUNE TELLING.
SHE MAKES ME LET HER READ MY CARDS.
BUT...
...CUT THE DECK...
...THE OLD CARDS UP...
SO, I SHUFFLED...
...AND TURNED THEM OVER.
...ARRANGED THEM CAREFULLY...
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY SHE TREATS ME LIKE A LITTLE CHILD.
MOTHER'S JUST A LITTLE WEIRD...
BUT I WONDER IF IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION?
I SHUFFLED THE BLANK CARD IN REALLY WELL LIKE I ALWAYS DO FOR YOU, HONEY
OKAY!
WITH TAROT CARDS, YOU GET ONE CHANCE TO TELL A FORTUNE.
YOU CAN ONLY CHOOSE ONCE, SO CONCENTRATE REALLY HARD.
READY, HONEY?
WE DON'T KNOW YOUR BIRTHDAY OR WHERE YOU WERE BORN, SO WE CAN'T READ YOUR HOROSCOPE, HUH?
THE FIRST TIME YIELDS THE TRUTH!


WOW, KAGUYA!
YOU DID IT AGAIN!!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
WELL, WELL.
JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
...I TURN OVER...
THE LAST CARD...
WHY?
...IS ALWAYS BLANK.
...WITHOUT FAIL...
FORTUNE TELLING ALWAYS MAKES ME SO NERVOUS.
I DON'T KNOW IF I LOVE OR HATE IT.
HUH?
THE LAST CARD IS THE
MOST IMPORTANT ONE, NOW.
TEE HEE
THAT CARD IS YOUR FUTURE.
KAGUYA
MY HEART IS POUNDING.
WHY AM I EXCITED?
IT WON'T STOP RACING.
R...

R R R R
ぷるる
R R R R R
IT'S SO LOUD! HURRY UP AND GET IT!!
THE SOUND SCARES ME, KAGUYA!
I'LL GET IT. I- I-
OKAAAY!
ぱた ぱた ぱた
The phone makes me nervous, too.
HELLO, HARUYAMA RESIDENCE.
PARDON?
AHEM
YOUNG LADY, THE BANK'S MOF* LEADER...
ARE YOU HIS DAUGHTER?
HUH?
MOF?
UM...
YOUR FATHER IS IN TOUCH WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, CORRECT?
* MINISTRY OF FINANCE
I MEAN,
MY FATHER WORKS AT THE BANK, BUT AS FAR AS WHAT HIS WORK INVOLVES...
MAY I ASK WHO THIS IS, SIR?
YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR BRIBERY
CARE TO MAKE A STATEMENT?

RRRR
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON.
Knock
WHO'S HERE?
Knock
Knock
WHA...?

WHAT?!
MISS, I JUST TOLD YOU HE WAS ARRESTED FOR BRIBERY.
PLEASE COMMENT!!
CLICK!
RRRR
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE?

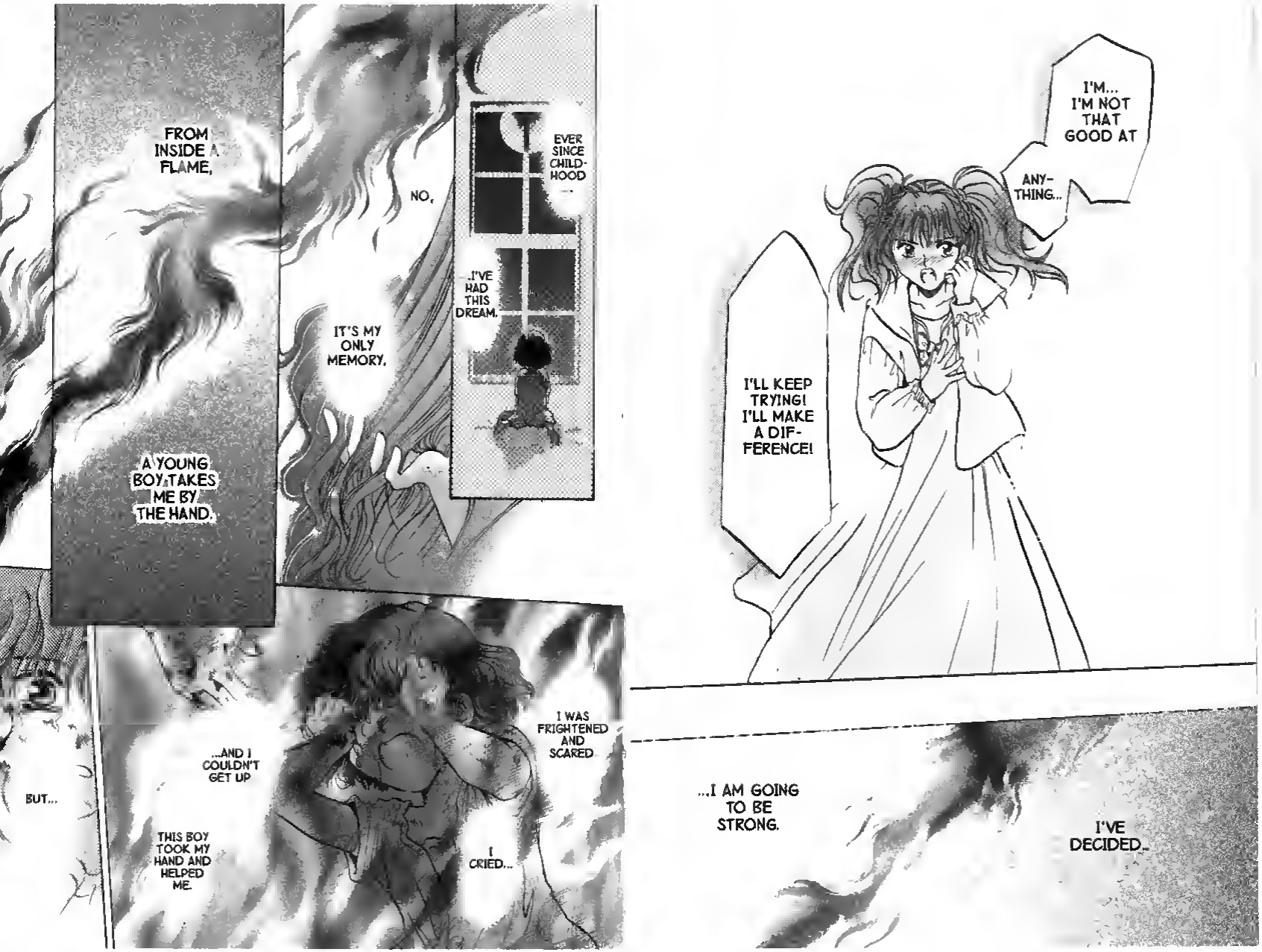
EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT
MR. HARUYAMA TOLD MR. YAMAZAKI TO "LEAVE THE REST UP TO HIM." HARUYAMA ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD "TAKE CARE" OF YAMAZAKI'S FAMILY.
MR. YAMAZAKI ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE OLD SYSTEM...
THIS...
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
RRRRRRRRRRRRR
FINE!
I CAN'T TAKE THE NOISE! UNPLUG THE PHONE!

AN ALARMING INCIDENT...
THE LARGEST CASE OF MONEY LAUNDERING EVER HAS BEEN EXPOSED...
THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU HAS BEGUN INTERROGATION OF 10 PEOPLE, INCLUDING BOTH PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES...
ACCORDING TO MR YAMAZAKI'S CONFESSION, CEO NORIYUKI HARUYAMA AND TWO OTHERS HAVE...
IT'S A CASE WHERE A FALL-GUY IS URGED TO TAKE THE BLAME.
THERE IS A RUMOR THAT MR. HARUYAMA SUGGESTED THAT MR. YAMAZAKI COMMIT SUICIDE AND ASSUME TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

WHOA!
WOW! I HAVE TONS OF MESSAGES!
BEEP!
5 NEW MESSAGES
2 MEMOS
WHAT?!
BEEP!
HMM..
ぱたん....
.....
OH..
MY MOBILE PHONE.
I MADE SOME TEA.
カチャ
カチャ
カチャ
MOMMA? LET'S HAVE TEA.
OKAY?
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
YOUR DAMN FATHER! HE DIDN'T SAY ONE WORD ABOUT ANY OF THIS!
SHUT UP!!
GO TO YOUR ROOM, RIGHT NOW!!
LOOK! A HOUSE JUST LIKE OURS ON TV...
OH, THIS IS SAM'S NUMBER.
AND NORI'S.
IT'S MOSTLY FRIENDS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THOSE REPORTERS HAVE THE NERVE TO CALL MY MOBILE PHONE.
.....
RING -A- DING
RING RING
RING RING
BUT, THERE'S A NUMBER HERE I DON'T KNOW.
どよーん...

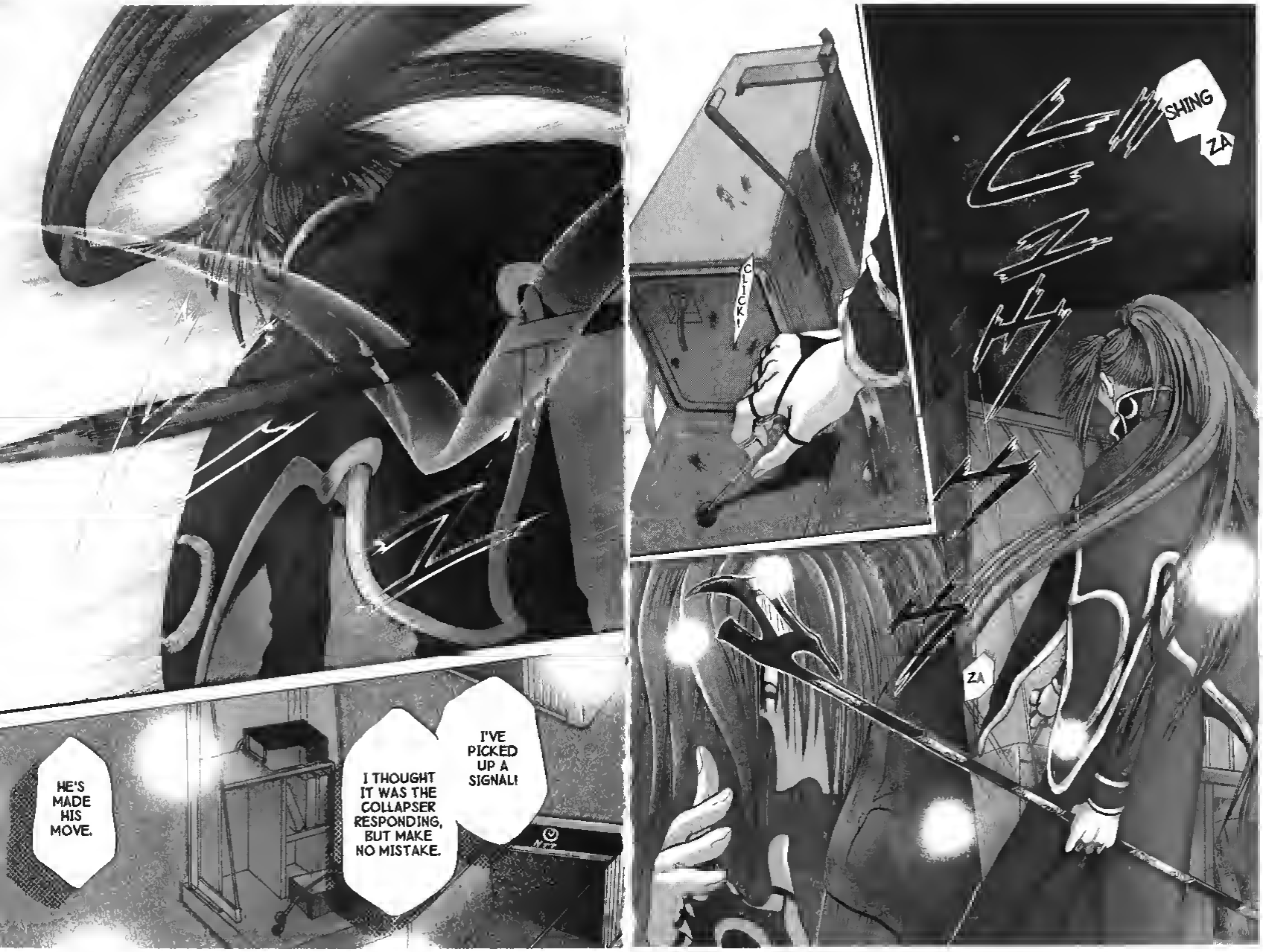
WHAT IS THIS, A JOKE?
WHAT?
HELLO?
ARE YOU A REPORTER?
DO NOT QUESTION ME, KAGUYA...
ARE YOU AT HOME?
BUT, I DON'T KNOW YOU! YOU'RE A STRANGER!
BUT...!!
SO, YOUR FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE?
EXCUSE ME..
_DON'T ACT LIKE I KNOW YOU, BECAUSE I DON'T!
KAGUYA...
.....
HELLO.
_KAGUYA
HE..
DO I KNOW HIM?
IT'S A MAN'S VOICE.
WOW, HE SOUNDS SO STRANGE!
YES..
YES, THIS IS KAGUYA.
I WILL COME FOR YOU
TONIGHT.

ARE YOU ALONE?
YOU..
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
STOP ASKING ME QUESTIONS AND JUST *LISTEN!*
AND YOU...
YOU KNOW WHO I AM!
BUT, I'M GONNA SERVE SOME GREATER PURPOSE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM OR WHERE I CAME FROM!
BUT, I'M STILL IMPORTANT!


FROM INSIDE A FLAME,
A YOUNG BOY TAKES ME BY THE HAND.
NO,
IT'S MY ONLY MEMORY.
EVER SINCE CHILD-HOOD —
..I'VE HAD THIS DREAM.
BUT...
THIS BOY TOOK MY HAND AND HELPED ME.
...AND I COULDN'T GET UP
I WAS FRIGHTENED AND SCARED
I CRIED...
I'M... I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT ANY-THING...
I'LL KEEP TRYING! I'LL MAKE A DIF-FERENCE!
...I AM GOING TO BE STRONG.
I'VE DECIDED..

HE WAS SO BATTERED AND HURT. BUT HE *HELPED* ME.
...THAT BOY.
I MAY BE WEAK NOW...
...BUT I'M GOING TO GET STRONGER!
I'M GOING TO BECOME A STRONG PERSON.

THE BOY WAS COVERED WITH CUTS AND BRUISES.
BUT...
HE GAVE ME HIS HAND.


HE'S MADE HIS MOVE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE COLLAPSER RESPONDING, BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE.
I'VE PICKED UP A SIGNAL!
CLICK
SHING
ZA
ZA

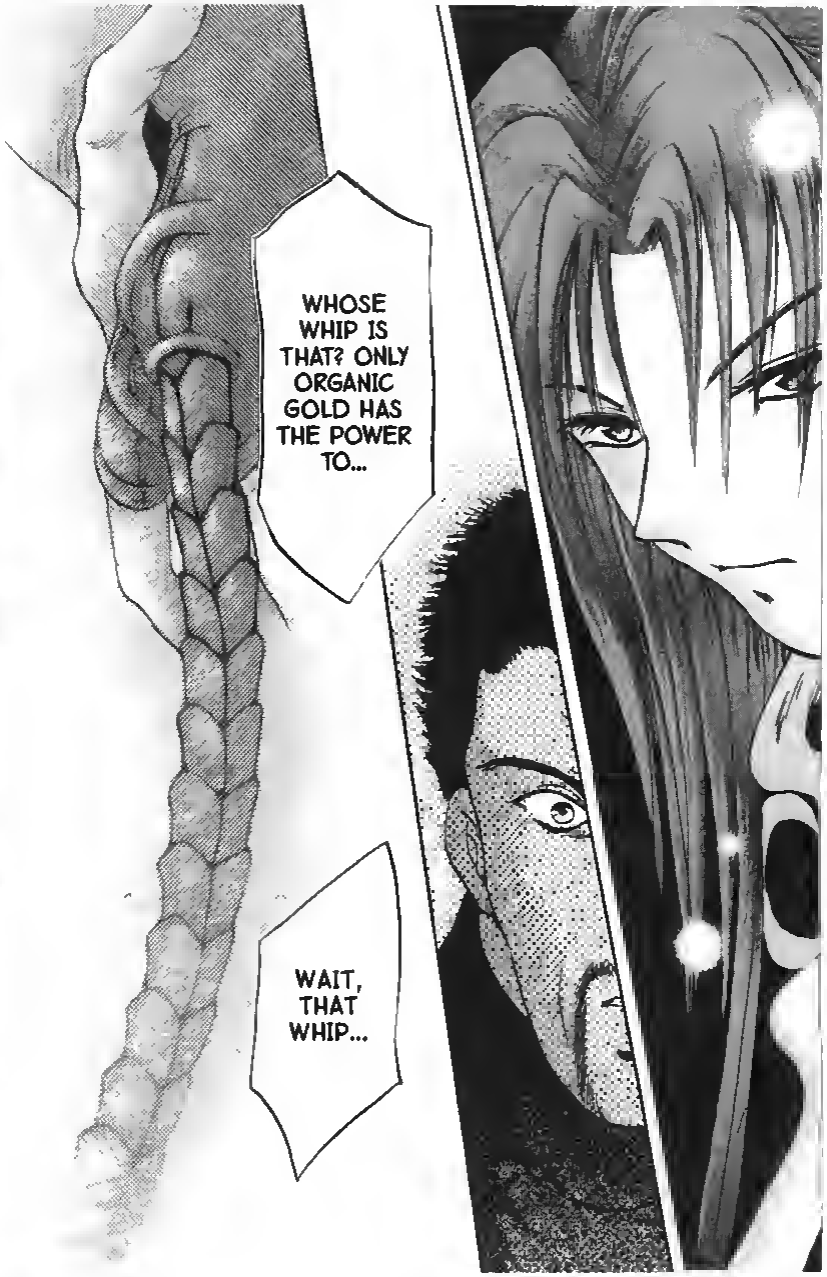
IDOU-!!
SARI-TA!! GET BACK!!
IT'S DEFINITELY THE MAD PRINCE SEEU!
KAGUYA IS OF GREAT VALUE TO HIM, AS WELL.
WE MIGHT HAVE TO FACE HIM THIS TIME.
BE READY, KATORASU.

YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
...!!

SO, IT WAS YOU, SEEU.

10
IS THAT A WHIP?!
IT CAN'T BE!

キリ
キリ
SEEU!!
THE ORGANIC GOLD!!!
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU DONE?!
キリ


WHOSE WHIP IS THAT? ONLY ORGANIC GOLD HAS THE POWER TO...
WAIT, THAT WHIP...

カイル

FAR,
FAR AWAY
AND
LONG AGO...
... THERE
WAS A
DREADFUL
WAR.

LIVING
FLESH
AND GOLD
UNITE AND
BECOME
PURE.
ANYONE WHO
ENCOUNTERS IT
WILL BE CURSED
FOR ETERNITY.

EVERYONE WHO FOUGHT LOST SOMETHING.
ALMOST...
A GREAT FIRE CONSUMED THE LAND AND KILLED ALMOST EVERYONE.
AND IN THE END, WE LOST OUR LAST PRINCE, DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF HIS DARK HEART.
WE LOST OUR COUNTRY.
THE PERSON WHO DISCOVERED THE FEW SURVIVORS
HAD A LEFT HAND MADE OF GOLD.
...EVERYONE.

OUR HISTORY IS JUST A MEMORY.
IDOU?
WHAT IS WRONG?
WHO IS THAT STRANGE PERSON?
.....
THAT STRANGE PERSON?
IT'S SEEU!
BUT_

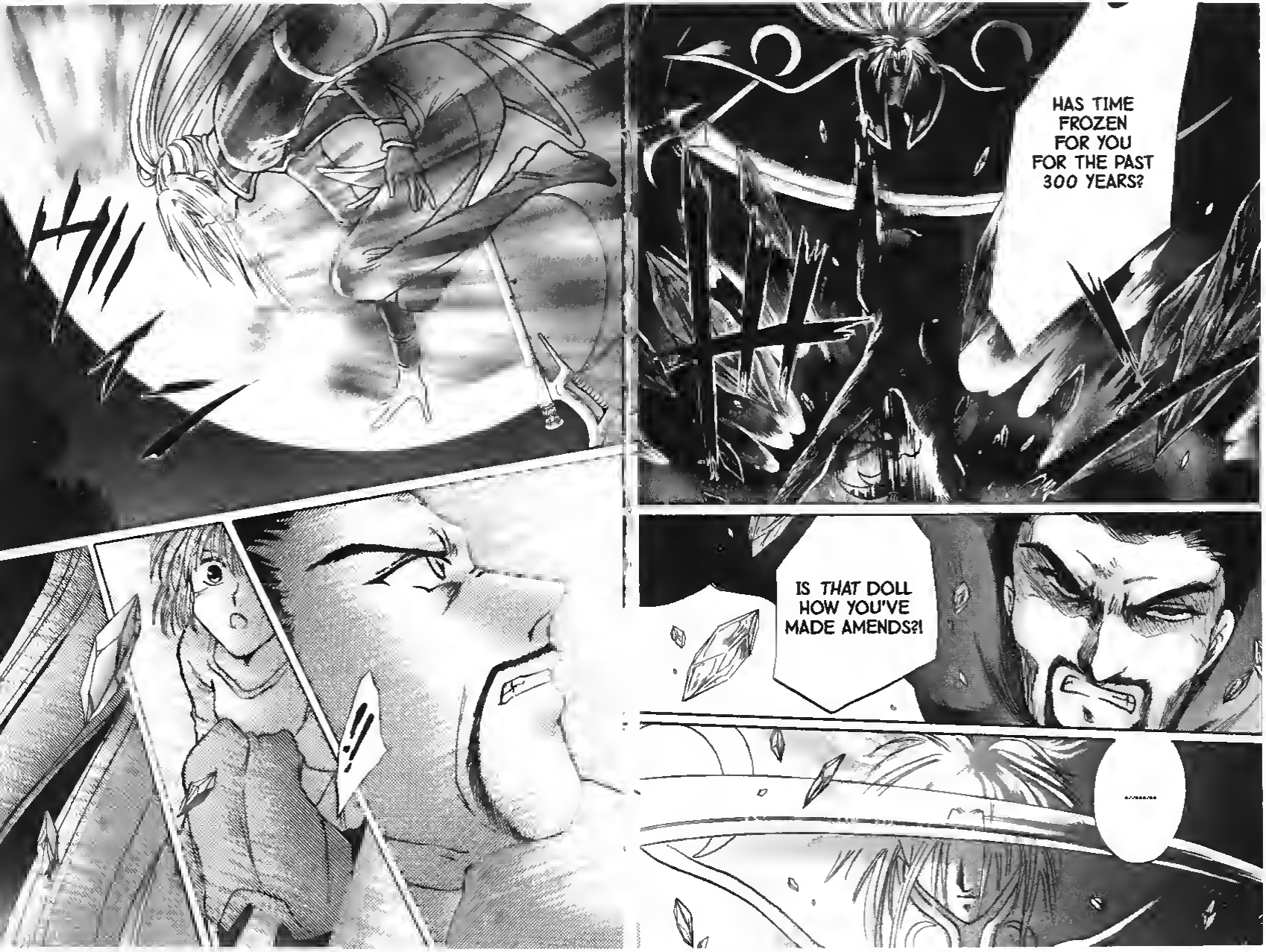
KAGAMI!!
THAT ROBOT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM.

THAT BOY LOOKS JUST LIKE KAGAMI. I'VE SEEN HIM MANY TIMES ON BATTLEFIELD.
HE IS THE FABLED ORGANIC KOUKI.
SEEU'S CREATION.
IT IS A DOLL.
I KNEW KAGAMI DIED.
WHEN WE ALL FOUGHT TOGETHER IN THE GREAT WAR
AND THE BOY KAGAMI IS DEAD.
SO, IT'S TRUE. HIS LEFT HAND IS MADE OF ORGANIC GOLD...
BUT, WHO IS THAT BOY?
I KNOW.
IDOU-
UM.. THAT BLACK-HAIRED BOY ISN'T BREATHING.
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT

BUT...
BUT, IDOU AND THAT PRINCE SEEU USED TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE, RIGHT?!
IF THEY TALKED, THEY WOULDN'T NEED TO FIGHT!
THAT WAS MORE THAN 300 YEARS AGO.
AND IT'S THEIR HISTORY, NOT OURS.
EVER SINCE SEEU TURNED THAT HAND INTO A WEAPON,
THOSE TWO CHOSE TO FIGHT INTO ETERNITY.
EACH OF US, RELYING ON OUR WEAPONS TO STAY ALIVE, WILL CONTINUE FIGHTING AGAINST ALL ODDS.
WE'LL FIGHT UNTIL ONE MAN STANDS.
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO OR SAY TO STOP THEM.
IT'S MADNESS!

GIVE ME POWER, MY WEAPON!
"ZENITH CRIO"!
WE ARE...
...LIVING IN A CURSED TIME.
IDOU!!
GET BACK, SARITA!

EVEN IF WE ARE DOOMED TO SUFFER THROUGH ETERNITY.
PLEASE BE ALIVE.
WHERE DID THEY GO?
WHERE ARE THEY?!
SEEU...
SEEU!! KAGAM!!!
WHAT SAVED ME WAS THE HOPE OF FINDING THOSE TWO.
SINCE THE LAST WAR.
I HAVE NOT STOPPED FIGHTING FOR 300 YEARS,
ARE YOU SATISFIED FOLLOWING AROUND A REPLICA OF SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES?!
WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME SEEU?!!
WHERE IS HE..?

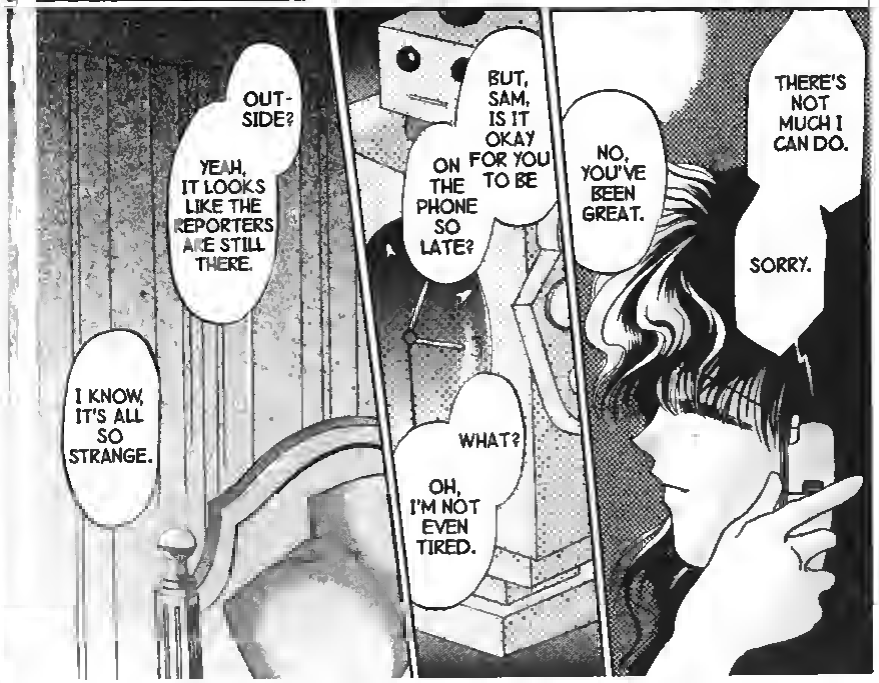

HAS TIME FROZEN FOR YOU FOR THE PAST 300 YEARS?
IS THAT DOLL HOW YOU'VE MADE AMENDS?!
.....

ONLY HE CAN FLY.
SEEU FLEW!!
CAN YOU DO THAT TOO, IDOU?
HE'S SEARCHING.
HE'S HEADED FOR THE GIRL, KAGUYA!
UH-HUH.
EVERY-THING'S FINE.
UH-HUH.

TELL ME.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOUR FRIENDS ARE NOW?
STAY THERE.
!!!
SEEU!!
GOLD!

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IS STICKING AROUND, HUH?
PROBABLY BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING BETTER TO REPORT.
WHA?
-?

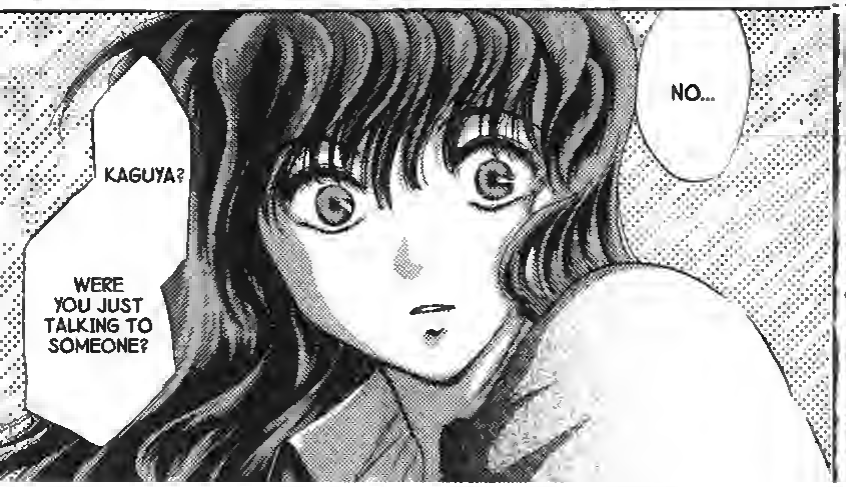
I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO GO FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL.


OUT-SIDE?
YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE THE REPORTERS ARE STILL THERE.
I KNOW, IT'S ALL SO STRANGE.
BUT, SAM, IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE ON THE PHONE SO LATE?
WHAT?
OH, I'M NOT EVEN TIRED.
NO, YOU'VE BEEN GREAT.
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.
SORRY.

RIGHT NOW,
YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THIS WORLD.
YOU CAN DO SOME-THING.

I GUESS, AT TIMES LIKE THIS,
THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO.
UH-HUH.
REALLY?

AND THAT'S IT. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
I DECIDED TO PULL OUT MY AROMA-THERAPY BOOK ♡
ANYWAY, MY FAMILY IS JUST TRYING TO TAKE IT EASY.


NO...
KAGUYA?
WERE YOU JUST TALKING TO SOMEONE?

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WE'VE SEARCHED FOR YOU.
...MISS KAGUYA.
YOUR NAME WAS THE ONLY CLUE WE HAD...
...WOULD END UP HERE
IN THE THIRD WORLD, THE MOST UGLY PLACE OF ALL.
IT IS STRANGE THAT SHE, OF ALL PEOPLE...
YOU HAVE THE SAME NAME AS THE LEGENDARY PRINCESS KAGUYA.
WHO...
WHO ARE...
KAGUYA?
KAGUYA?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HOW DID YOU GET IN MY ROOM?
HAHAHA
WHAT IS ALL OF THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I PUT EVERYONE OUTSIDE TO SLEEP.
IDOU IS WAITING, PRINCESS
SHALL WE GO?
BUT...

HOW DID YOU GET TO THIS SINFUL WORLD, KAGUYA?
KAGUYA?
KAGUYA?
WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU...

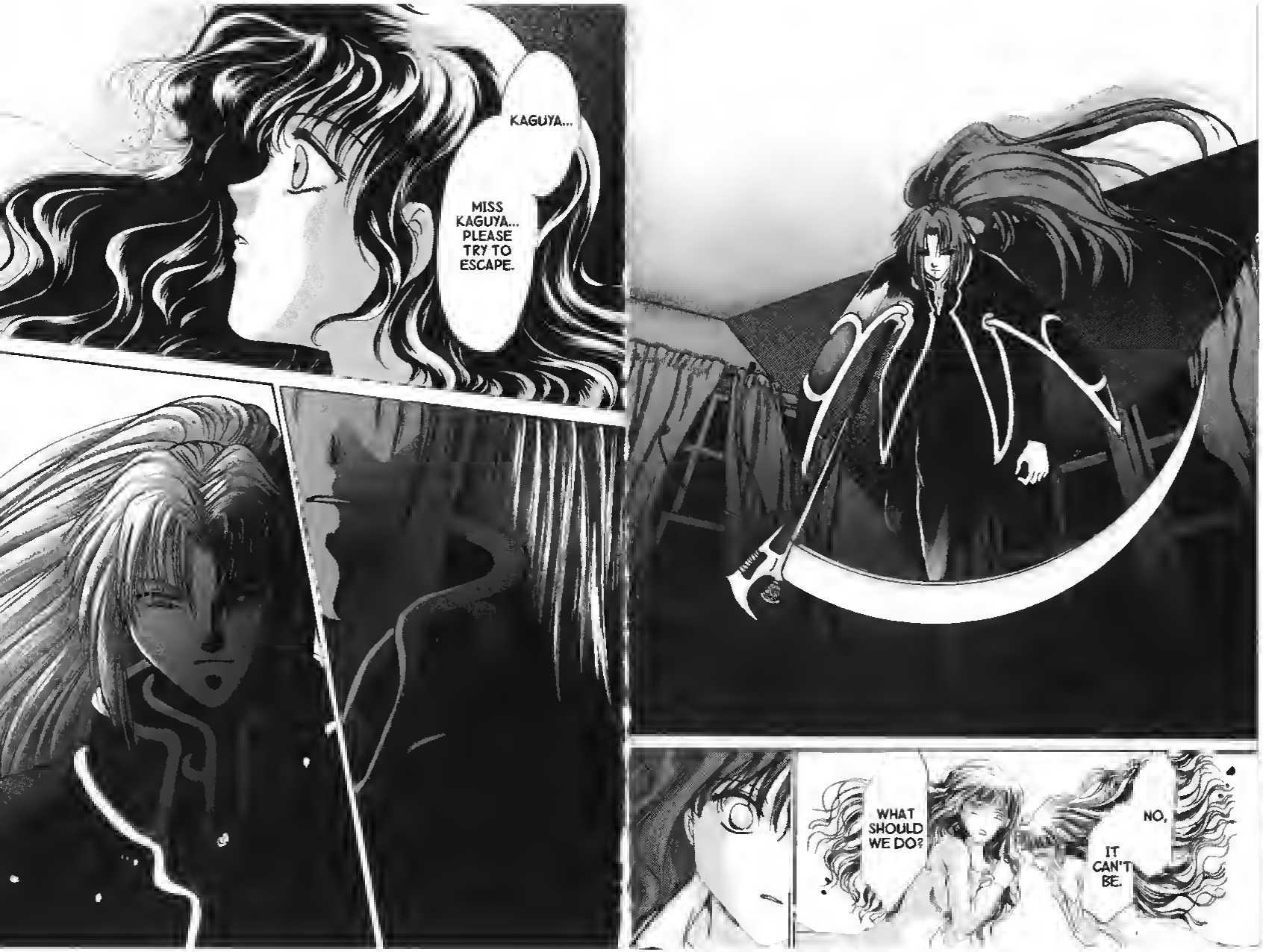
I NEED MORE TIME!
PL...
PLEASE EXPLAIN...
EXPLAIN IT ALL CLEARLY.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME PRINCESS.
TIME!
SOMEHOW I KNOW THEY'RE POWERFUL.
IT'S A SHAME IT IS NOT A FULL MOON TONIGHT
...THEY HAVEN'T AWAKENED THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS.
WHAT ...?
WH-
WH-
EVEN THOUGH I SAID I WOULD CALL THE POLICE...
I PROMISE, I'LL LISTEN
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL IT TO ME HERE?
IT WOULD BE SO NICE TO HEAR THE LEGEND UNDER A FULL MOON OF COURSE.

THE LEGENDARY PRINCESS KAGUYA
IS VERY BEAUTIFUL.
UGH,
UM...
SAM, CALL 9-1-1!!

TO ANANAI?
WE WILL COME
COME FOR ME WHERE?
FOR YOU.
DO YOU POSSIBLY_
...HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MAN ON THE TELEPHONE?
THE MAN ON THE TELEPHONE?

PRINCESS KAGUYA, YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE. YOU MUST COME WITH US.
IT IS TIME TO ASCEND TO THE ANANAI.

AH...
IT'S THE MAD PRINCE SEEU!


KAGUYA...
MISS KAGUYA... PLEASE TRY TO ESCAPE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
NO, IT CAN'T BE.

I'VE COME FOR YOU, KAGUYA.

IT'S... IT'S THE MAN ON THE TELEPHONE!

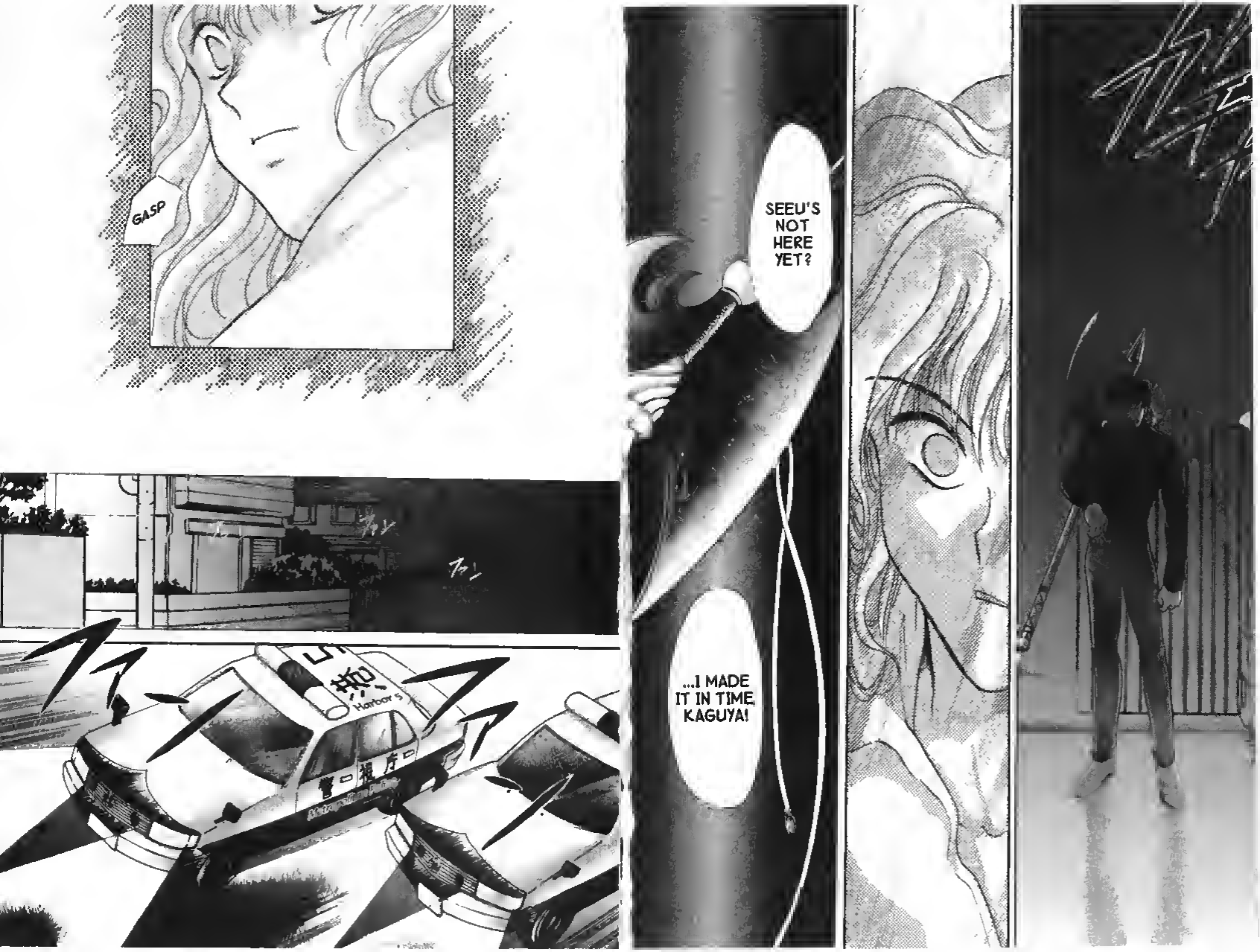
AND SUCH ELEGANT CLOTHES...
AND THOSE EYES!
THAT HAIR!
...SICKLE IN HIS HANDS?
OH, NO!
IS THAT A...
HE'S SO SCARY, BUT
ドキン ドキン
ドキン ドキン

KAGUYA...

GO AWAY!
IT'S DANGEROUS IN HERE!
HER BROTH-
WHAT IS THIS...
WHAT THE...
YOUR OLDER BROTHER?

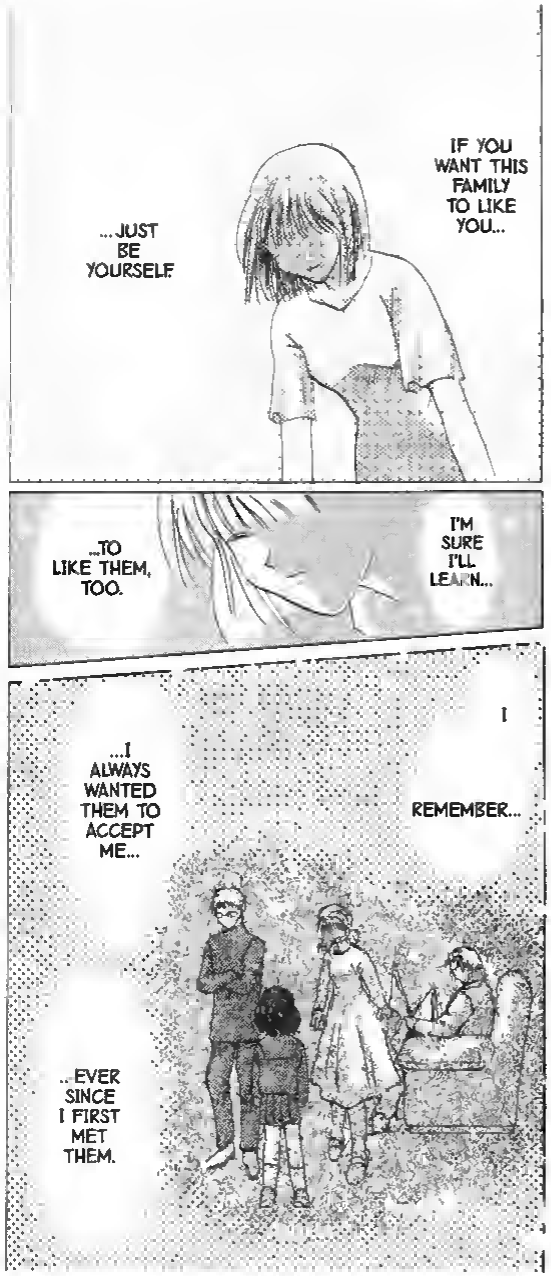
ドドド

GET MOM OUT, QUICK!
OKAY, GOT IT!!
THIS WAY, MOTHER!
KAGUYA...
I KNEW I HEARD SOMETHING!
THOSE VOICES IN YOUR ROOM...
IT'S OKAY!!
YOU LIED!
BUT...
I'M TELLING THEM TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!


GASP
SEEU'S NOT HERE YET?
...I MADE IT IN TIME, KAGUYA!
Harbor's

キリ
キリ
キリ
...OR SHE'LL ESCAPE
BRING HER TO ME...
COME, KAGUYA.
NO SEEU! SHE MUST COME WITH ME!

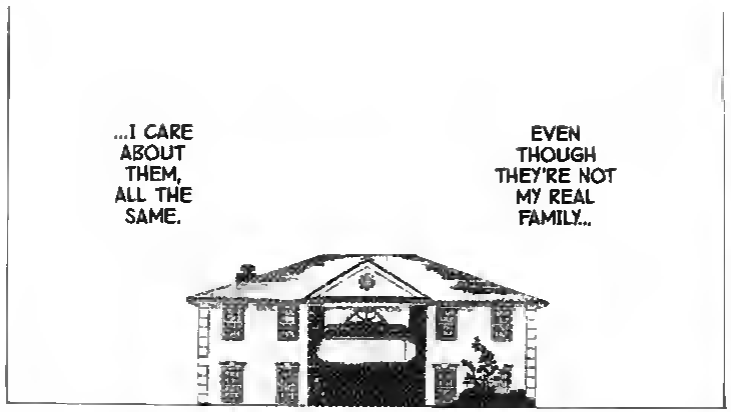
WHAT IN THE WORLD..
THEIR ROOF!
WE NEED BACKUP!!
キュン
GOLD...


...JUST BE YOURSELF
IF YOU WANT THIS FAMILY TO LIKE YOU...
...TO LIKE THEM, TOO.
I'M SURE I'LL LEARN...
...I ALWAYS WANTED THEM TO ACCEPT ME...
I REMEMBER...
...EVER SINCE I FIRST MET THEM.

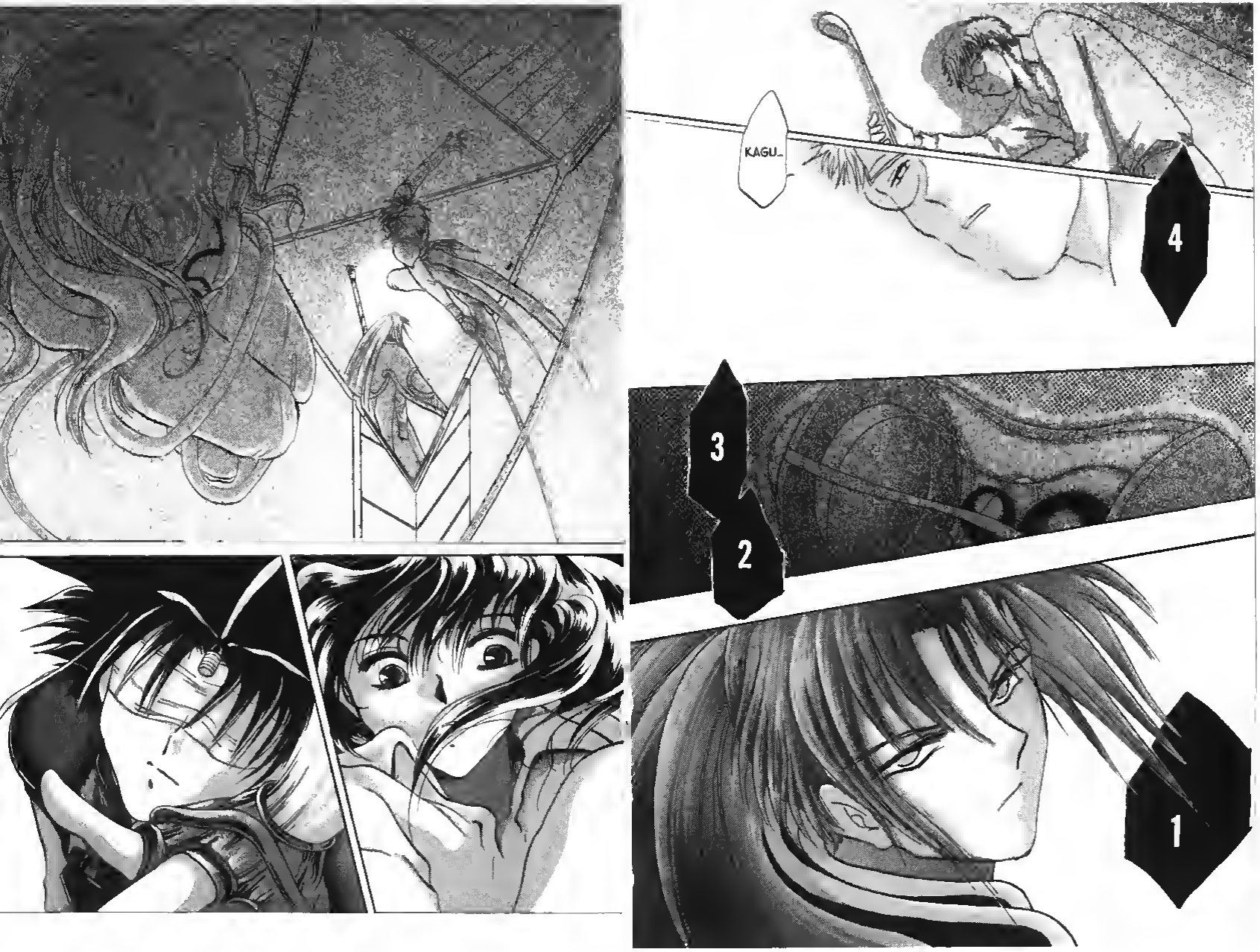
I REMEMBER...

GET AWAY FROM MY BABY!
AH!
YOU...
YOU MONSTERS!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM MY DAUGHTER?!
SHE LOOKS SO STRONG.
OH, MOTHER.

SEEU, DON'T DO IT!!
STAR COLLAPS-ER!
AAAGH!
KAGUYA!!


...I CARE ABOUT THEM, ALL THE SAME.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT MY REAL FAMILY...

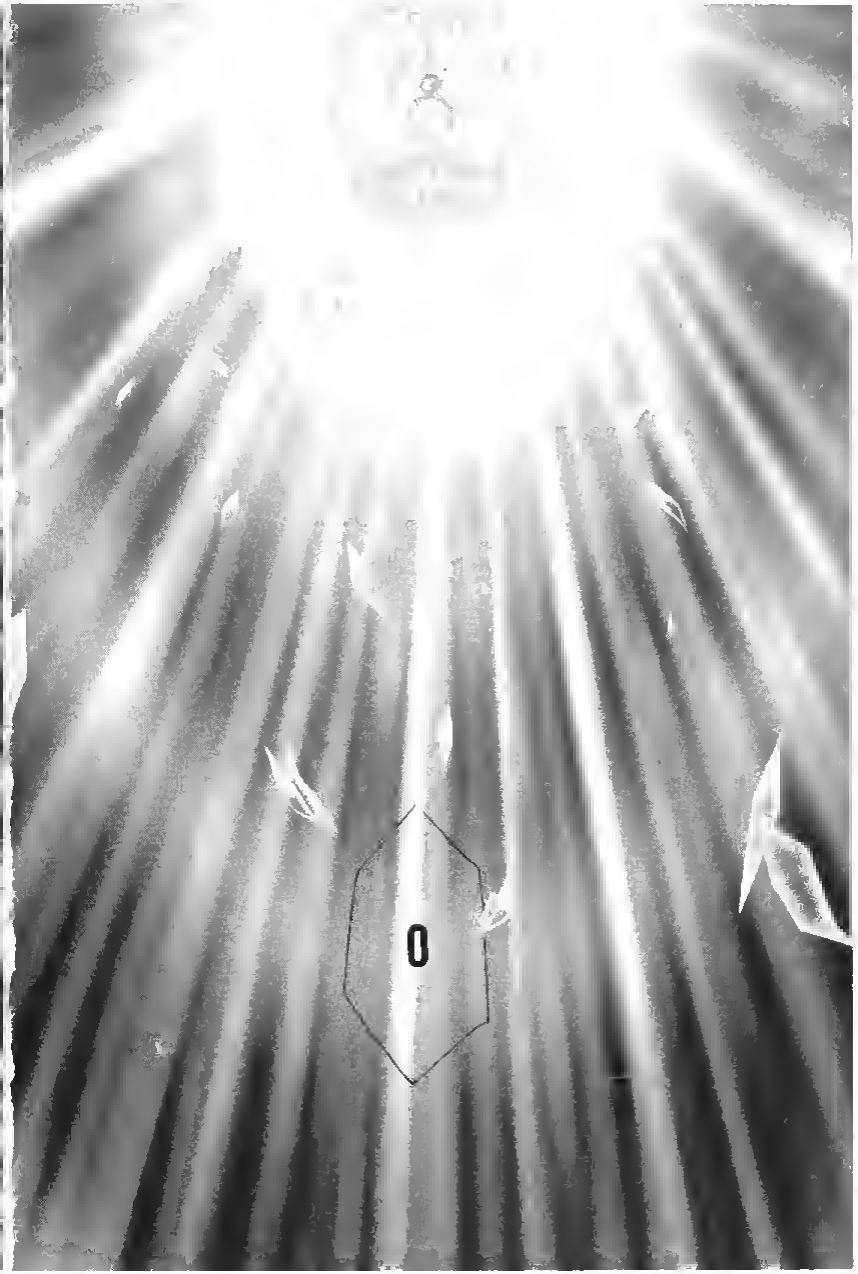
HELP!


KAGU-
4
3
2
1

KAGUYA...

HOW DID YOU GET TO THIS SINFUL WORLD?

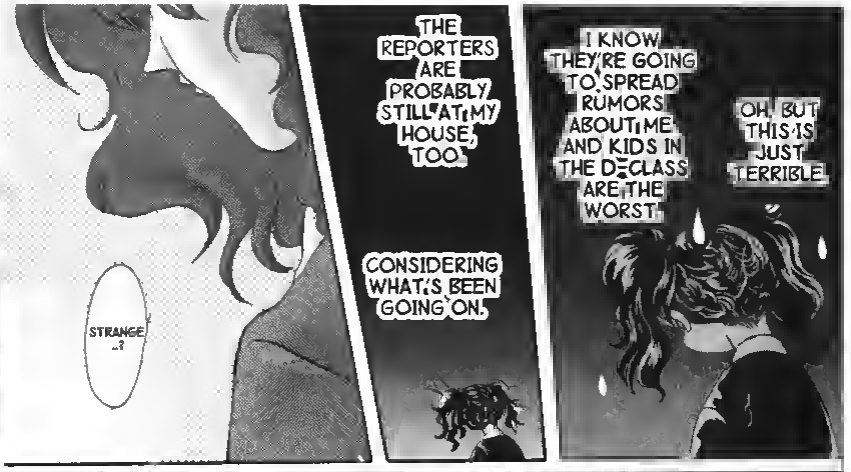
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE... THE THIRD WORLD, THE MOST UGLY PLACE OF ALL.



WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING.
HUH?
WHAT COULD THIS BE?
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE SPRING IS ALREADY WOUND.
GREAT, IT'S TIME FOR SCHOOL ALREADY.

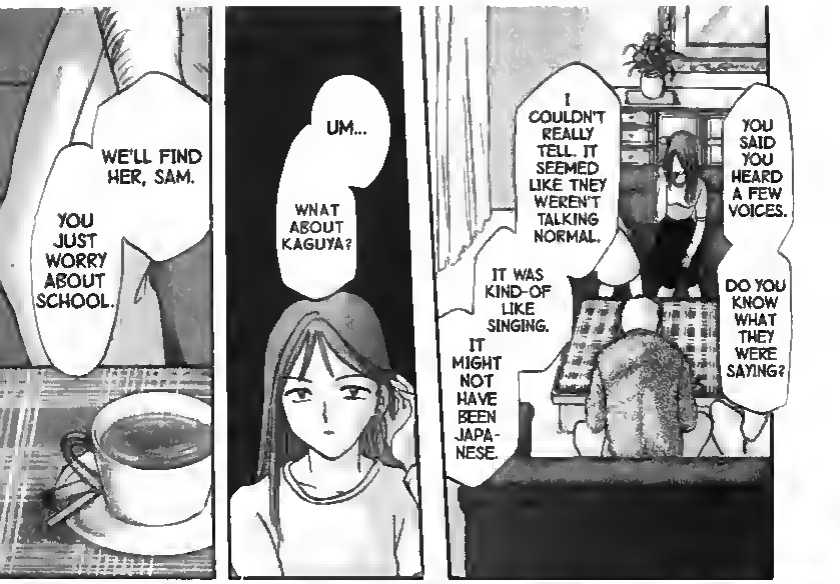
EXCUSE ME..


STRANGE ..?
THE REPORTERS ARE PROBABLY STILL AT MY HOUSE, TOO.
CONSIDERING WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.
I KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT ME AND KIDS IN THE D-CLASS ARE THE WORST.
OH, BUT THIS IS JUST TERRIBLE.

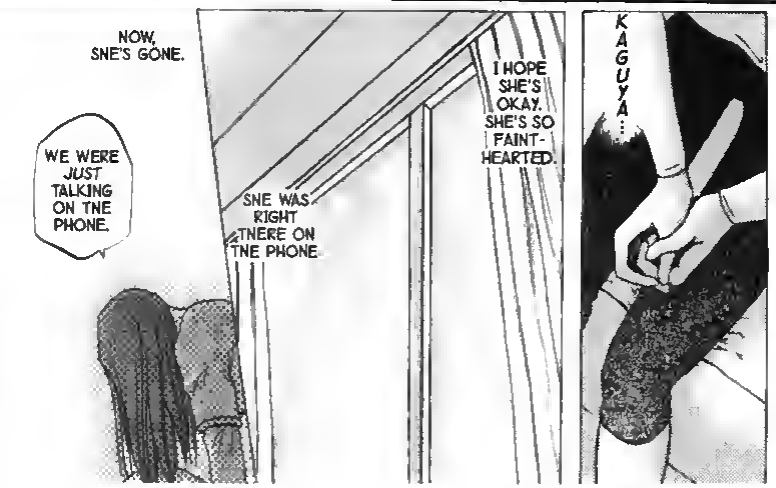
I REMEMBER SOMETHING REALLY STRANGE.
IS IT EVENING?
MAYBE I SAW IT ON TV..
NO, COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED SOMETHING SO...
WAS IT A DREAM?

UM...?

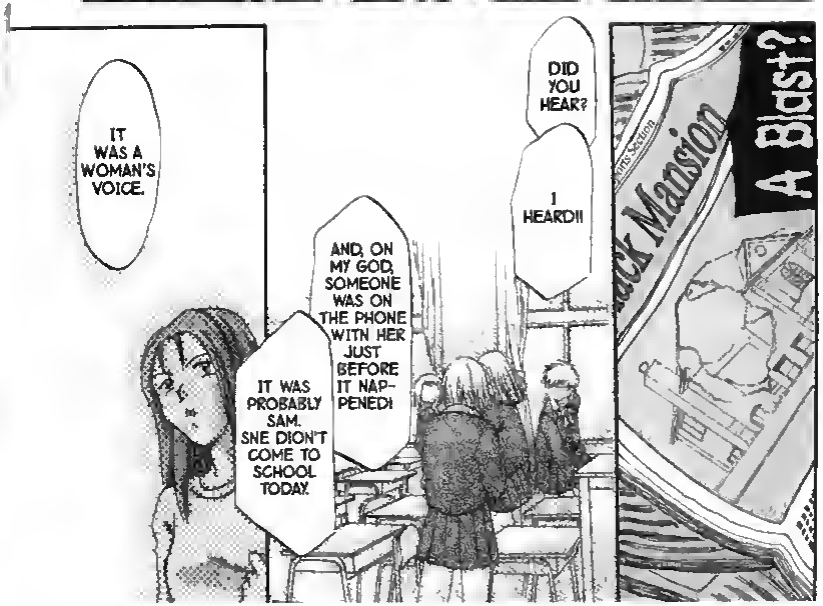
KAGU_
KAGUYA?
.....
.....
OKAY NOW, LET'S TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF ALL THIS.
PLEASE, TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU CAN REMEMBER.


WE'LL FIND HER, SAM.
YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT SCHOOL.
UM...
WHAT ABOUT KAGUYA?
I COULDN'T REALLY TELL. IT SEEMED LIKE THEY WEREN'T TALKING NORMAL.
YOU SAID YOU HEARD A FEW VOICES.
IT WAS KIND-OF LIKE SINGING.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WERE SAYING?
IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN JAPA-NESE.

BUT MY BEST FRIEND IS MISSING!
SIGH


NOW, SHE'S GONE.
WE WERE JUST TALKING ON THE PHONE.
SHE WAS RIGHT THERE ON THE PHONE.
I HOPE SHE'S OKAY. SHE'S SO FAINT-HEARTED.
KAGUYA...

SO, MR HARUYAMA WAS NAULED IN FOR BRIBERY YESTERDAY.
AND NOW THIS?
IT CAN'T BE JUST A COINCIDENCE.

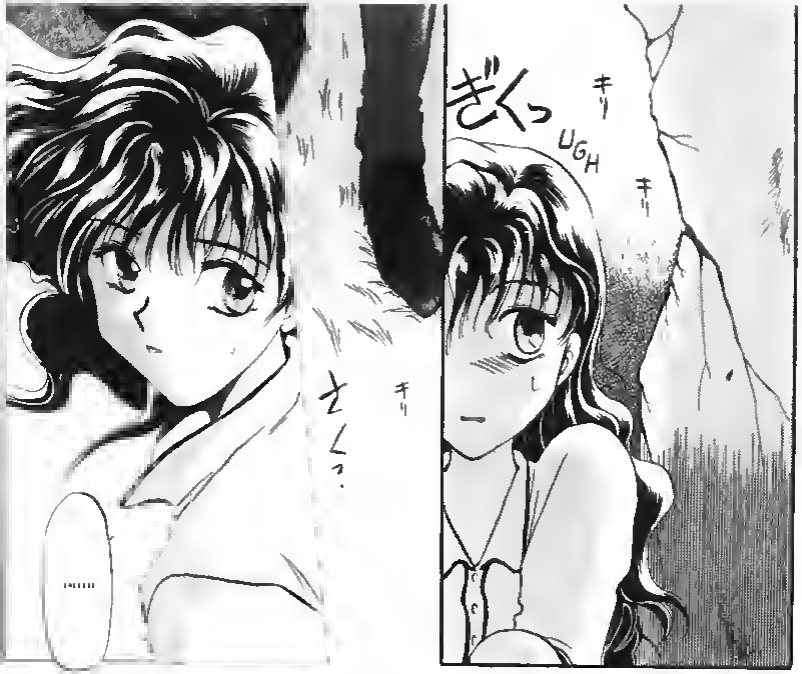

IT WAS A WOMAN'S VOICE.
DID YOU HEAR?
I HEARD!!
AND, OH MY GOD, SOMEONE WAS ON THE PHONE WITH HER JUST BEFORE IT HAP-PENED!
IT WAS PROBABLY SAM. SHE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY.
A Blast?
Mansion

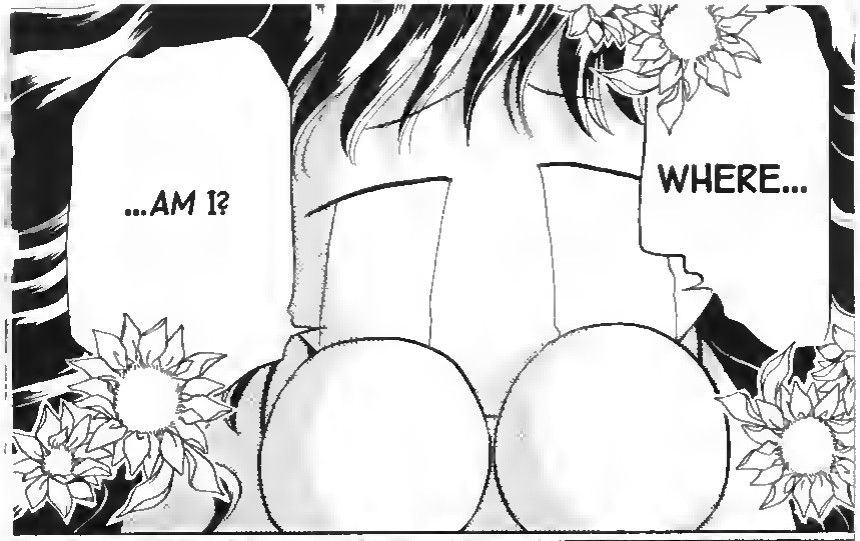
HE LOOKED ALMOST LIKE AN ARAB.
BUT,
HE KNEW HER NAME.
AND HE WASN'T SPEAKING JAPANESE
HE HAD BLACK HAIR.. TRIMMED SHORT.
AND HE WAS CARRYING A BIG AXE-LIKE THING.
PLEASE TRY AND RECALL WHAT THE MAN'S WORDS SOUNDED LIKE.
HERE'S A RECORDING IN ARABIC. WAS IT LIKE THIS?
OH, MY BABY!
WHAT DID THEY DO WITH MY KAGUYA?!
UM.. MADAM..?
WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN TO FIND HER.
PLEASE, DON'T CRY
WE WILL FIND YOUR DAUGHTER
HE WAS CALLING OUT HER NAME.

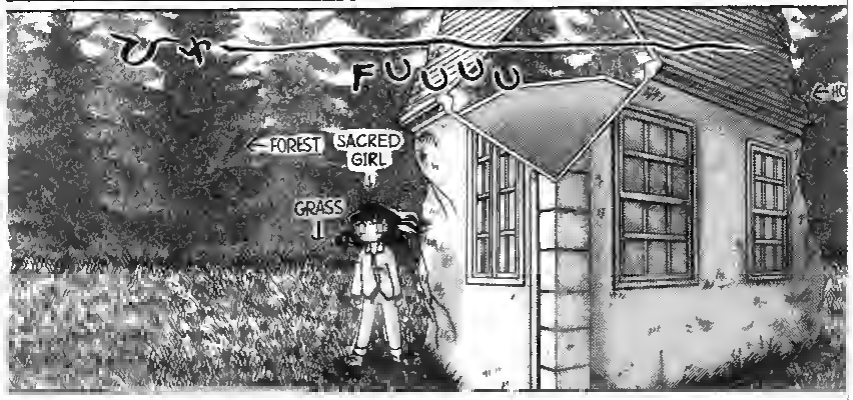
SIR, I SAW ABOUT THREE OF THEM.
THEY WERE WEARING DRESS-LIKE CLOTHES LIKE IN A MOVIE
WHAT ABOUT THE WOMEN?
SON YOU SAY YOU SAW A TALL MAN WITH LONG HAIR
AND YOU MENTIONED HE HAD A WEAPON
THOSE WOMEN, AND THAT WEIRD GUY...
TOTAL FREAKS!
YEAH... AND I DON'T THINK THEY WERE JAPANESE.
NOW, IN CASE YOU THINK OF MORE, HERE'S MY CARD.
WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO FIND HER.
SO, WILL MY SISTER BE OKAY?
MY MOTHER, HOW IS SHE?

WHERE IS OUR LITTLE GIRL?

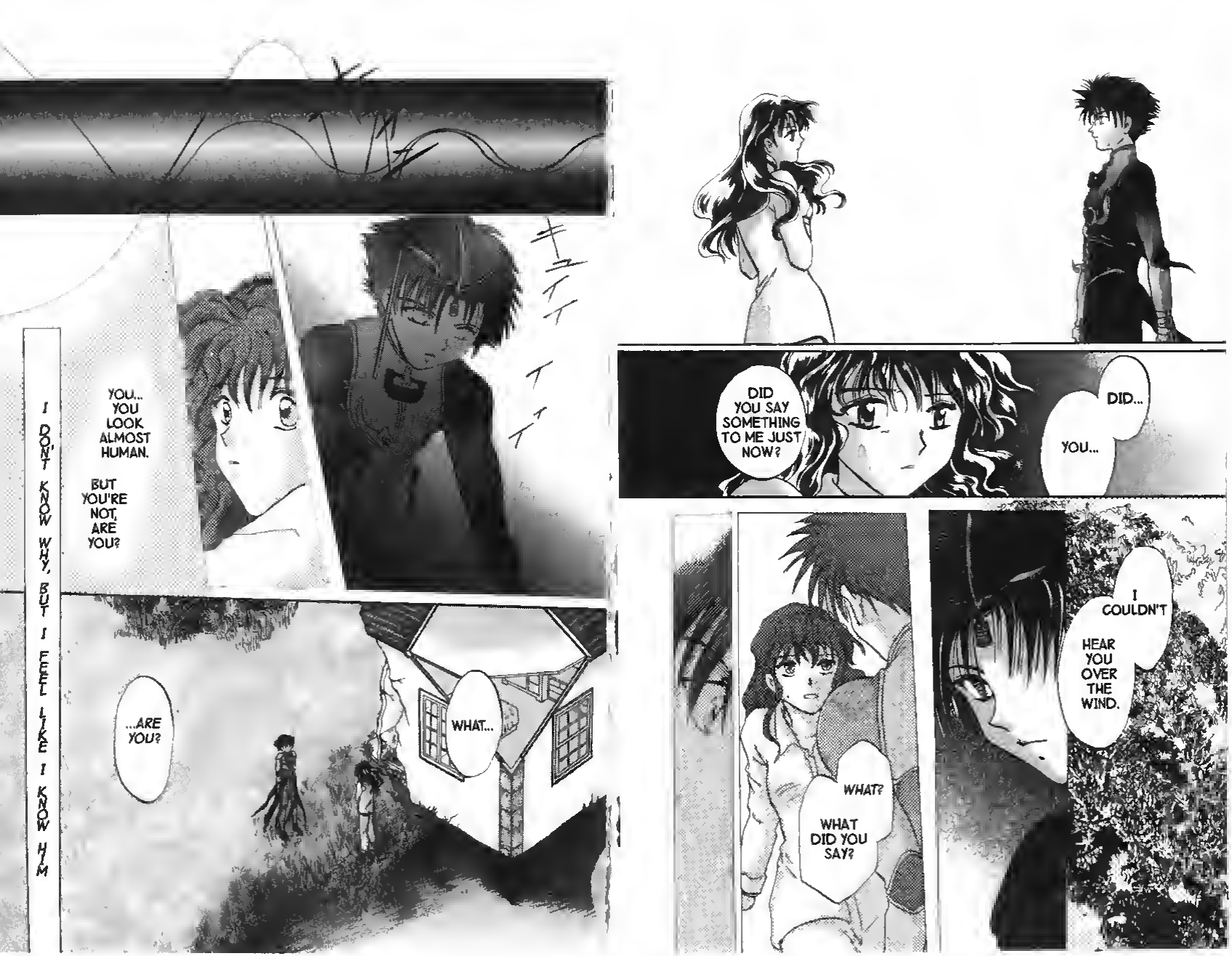
KAGUYA ALWAYS THINKS OF OTHERS.
IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING GOING ON, KAGUYA GAVE ME HER CARDIGAN TO WEAR.
SHE'S A SWEET GIRL.
...BINDS US.
OUT OF EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY,
SHE'S THE ONE WHO...
BUT, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO RELAX AROUND HER.
I'VE LIKED HER SINCE THE FIRST DAY SHE GOT HERE.


ぎくっ
UGH
キリ
キリ
キリ
ぎくっ.
.....


...AM I?
WHERE...


FUUUU
FOREST
SACRED GIRL
GRASS

IT'S COLD!
MOUNTAIN
THIS PLACE DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE JAPAN.
SKY
LAKE

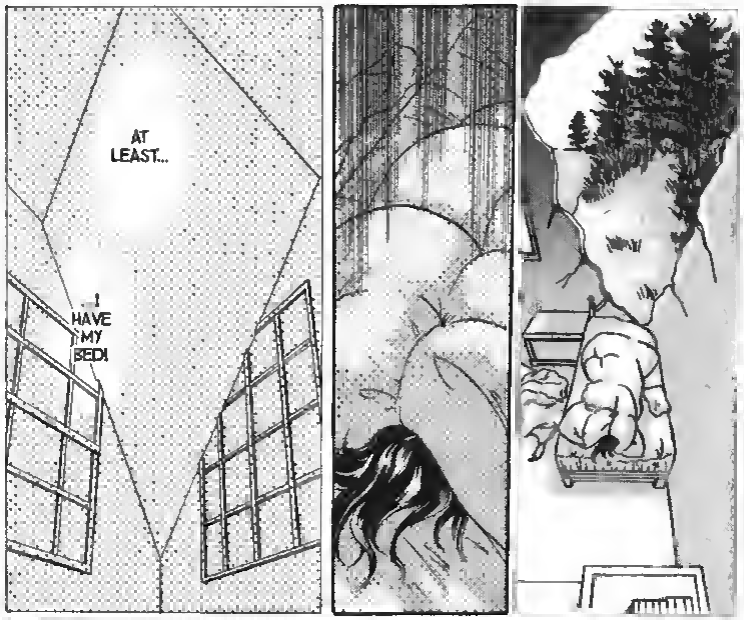

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I FEEL LIKE I KNOW HIM
YOU... YOU LOOK ALMOST HUMAN.
BUT YOU'RE NOT, ARE YOU?
...ARE YOU?
WHAT...
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING TO ME JUST NOW?
DID... YOU...
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE WIND.

WELL, AT LEAST I'M WEARING CLOTHES!
HMMM...
under
over
braid
braid
AT THE SIDE!
FASTEN THEM...
THAT TIME FOR BOTH WAS 10 MINUTES
SINCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL LOOK AROUND...
I HAVE TO GO AND FIND HELP!

...BUT I THINK THIS GUY IS REALLY JUST AN AMAZING DOLL.
I KNOW IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

Good thing I had my shoes on!!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM,
BUT I KNOW THAT THIS IS MY HOUSE!
THANK GOD I'M IN MY ROOM!
Voila!

HA HA!
WHAT'S THIS?
HM.


AT LEAST...
I HAVE MY BED!

I DON'T WANT TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE FUTON!
AND WHAT IF I GET HUNGRY?
IF YOU'RE LOST, YOU SHOULD NEVER MOVE.
WHAT DO I DO WHEN NIGHT COMES?
I MIGHT BE HOME WHEN I WAKE UP.
BRRR

WHEN I GET HOME MY STORY WILL BE ALL OVER THE NEWS!
A CHUNK OF MY HOUSE!
NOW, THIS IS CRAZY!
WHO AM I KIDDING? NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME
OH, MY!

!!
NOT YOU AGAIN!
NO NO NO!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
GO AWAY.
GO ON, GET OUT!
バスッ!!

...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO!
HONESTLY...
BRRR!
HAAYAAA!!
BRRR...

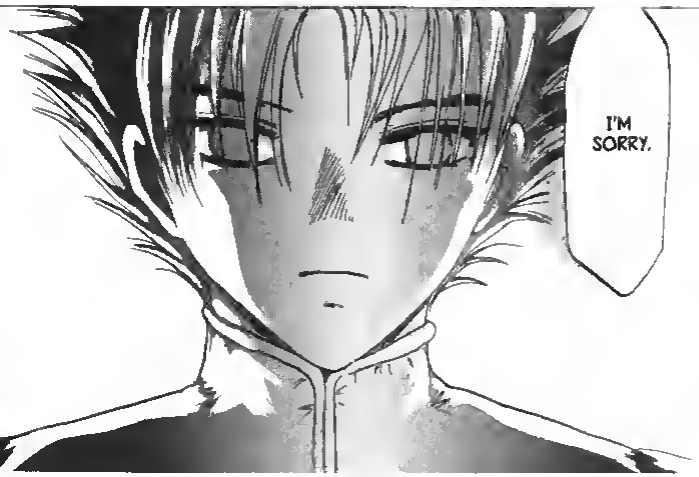
I SAID, GET OUT!!

THIS...
THIS IS MY ROOM!
WHY AM I IN THIS PLACE?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE AM I?
WHO ARE YOU?
NO, WHAT ARE YOU?
DON'T TOUCH ME!!

IT'S AMAZING.
THE EVENING FOG GETS VERY THICK.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE
WE'RE BY THE LAKE

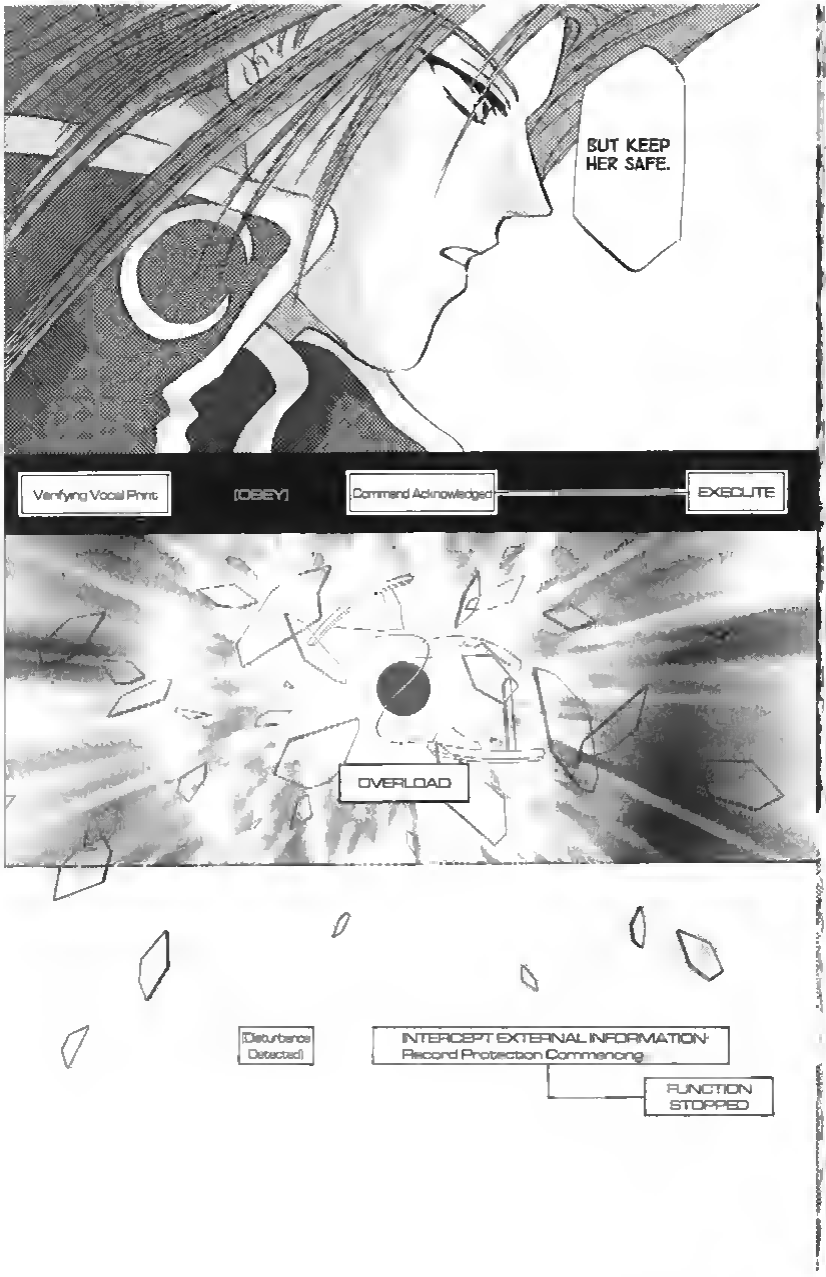
I DON'T KNOW...
I'VE LOST ALL MY SELF CONFIDENCE.
IS THERE SOMETHING I DON'T UNDER-STAND?
CAN YOU PLEASE SAY JUST ONE THING?
YOU CAN SPEAK, CAN'T YOU?

PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU, TALK!
PLEASE, JUST SAY ANY-THING.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY..


I'M SORRY.

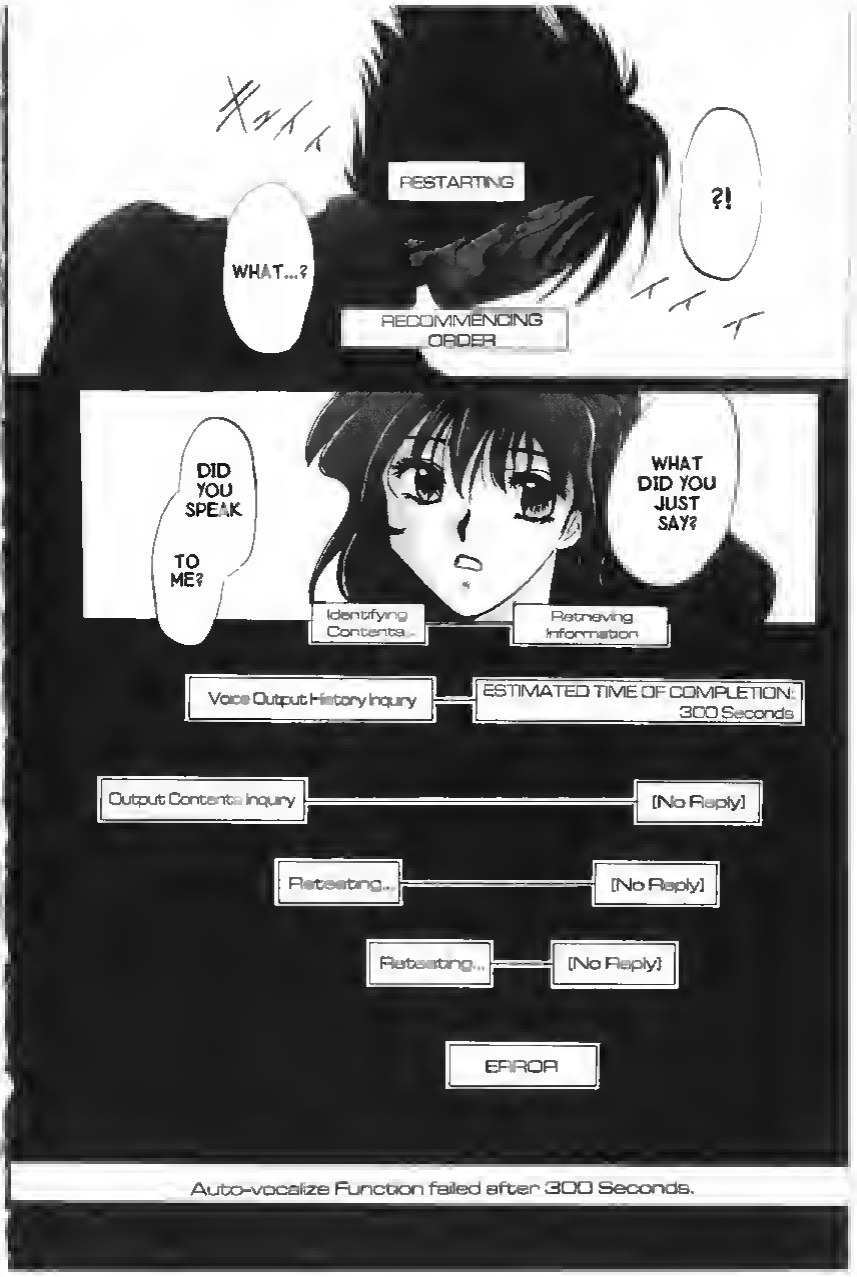
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY ENTIRE LIFE I'VE BEEN IN SUCH A DARK PLACE.
BUT, THEN AGAIN,
I HAD NO SELF-CONFIDENCE TO BEGIN WITH.

WHY...
WHY DO YOU JUST STAND THERE?
C'MON!
SAY SOME-THING.

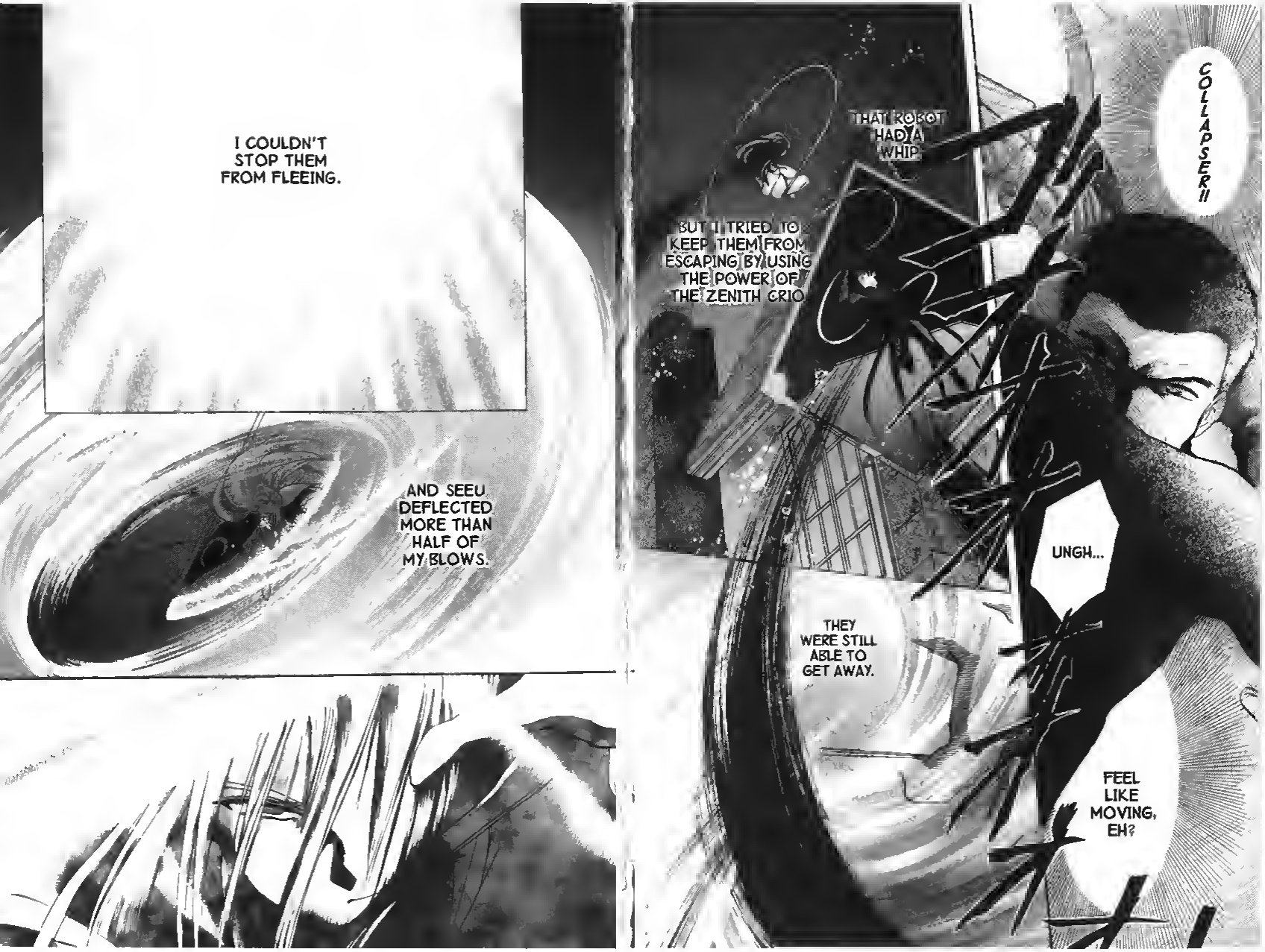

BUT KEEP HER SAFE.
Verifying Vocal Print
[OBEY]
Command Acknowledged
EXECUTE
OVERLOAD
[Disturbance Detected]
INTERCEPT EXTERNAL INFORMATION: Record Protection Commencing
FUNCTION STOPPED

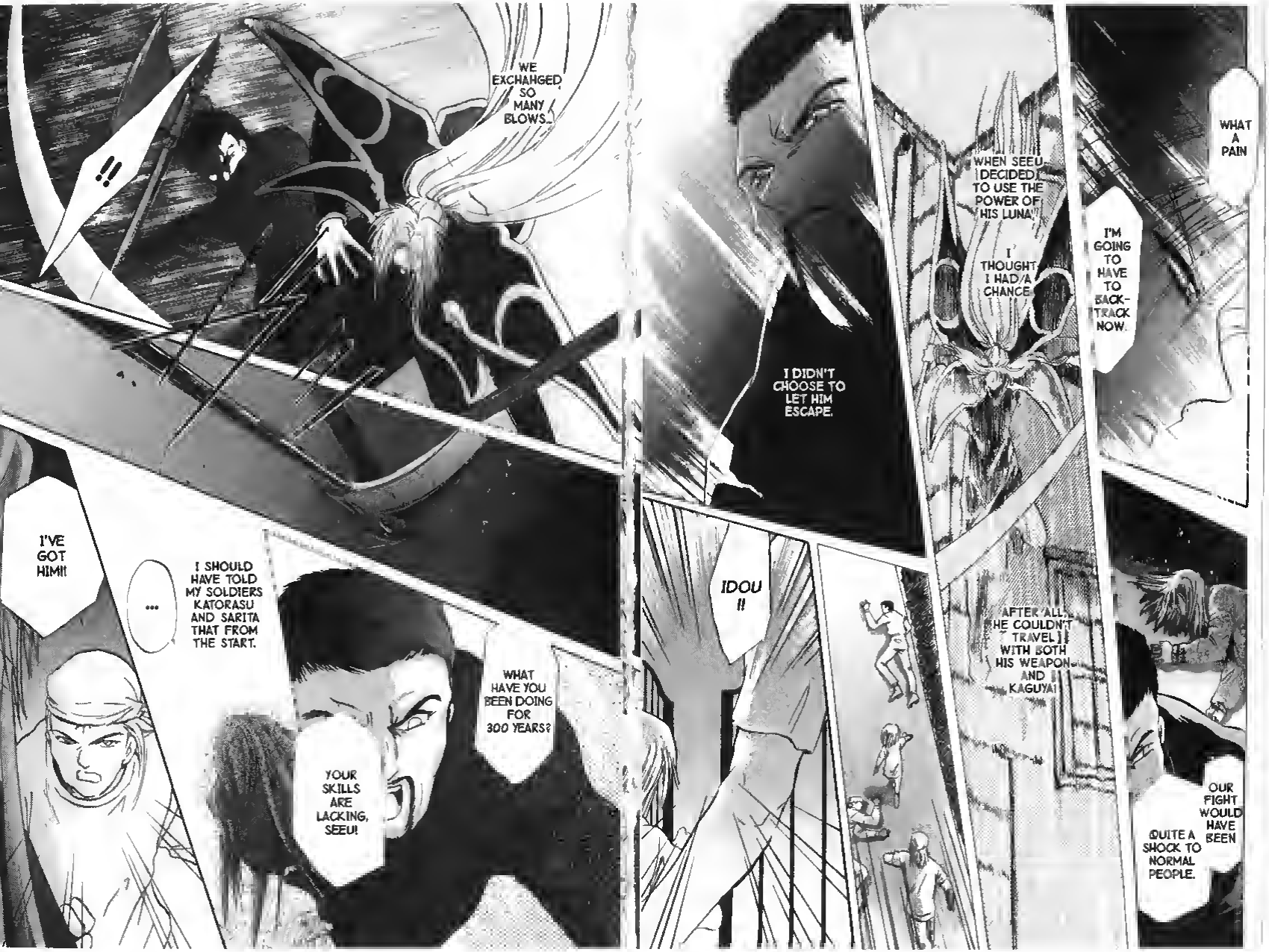
GOLD...
LANGUAGE DISCRIMINATION: ...Commencing
RECEIVING.
BRING HER TO ME, GOLD.
SEEU, DON'T!

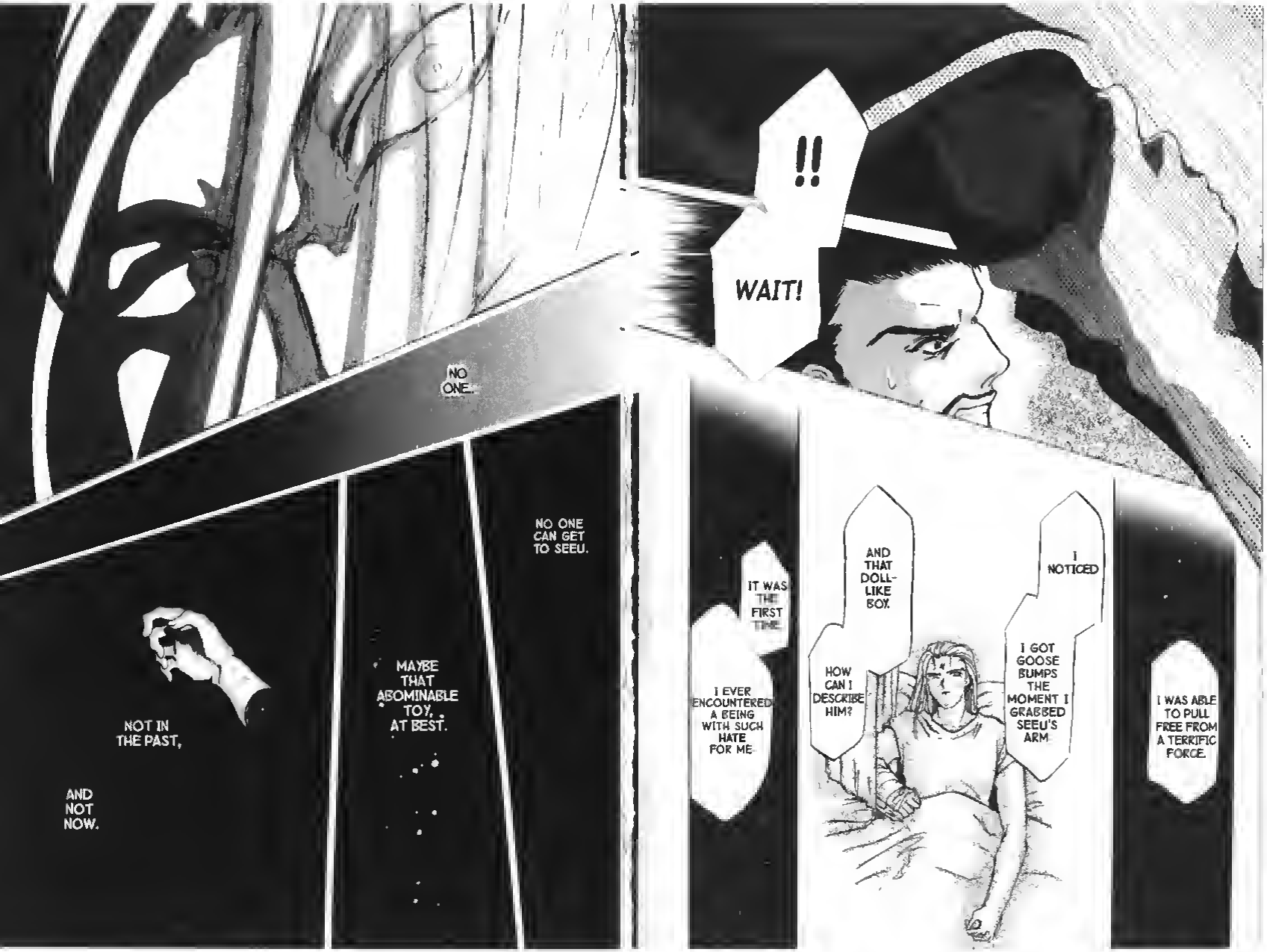
...ARE YOU?
WHAT...
NO RESPONSE.


RESTARTING
?!
WHAT...?
RECOMMENCING ORDER
DID YOU SPEAK TO ME?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
Identifying Contents...
Retrieving Information
Voice Output History Inquiry
ESTIMATED TIME OF COMPLETION: 300 Seconds
Output Contents Inquiry
[No Reply]
Retesting...
[No Reply]
Retesting...
[No Reply]
ERROR
Auto-vocalize Function failed after 300 Seconds.

IDOU!
I HAVE GOOD NEWS.
WE WERE ABLE TO RE-ATTACH KATORASU'S ARM!
JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
HELLO, SARITA.
I THINK IT WAS CUT OFF BY THE LUNA.
IT'S VERY SHARP. IT CUTS RIGHT THROUGH THE BONE, SO KATORASU'S ARM WILL HEAL NICELY.
LUNA IS WHAT PRINCE SEEU CALLS HIS LIVING WEAPON, THE LUNATO MERCURY.
LUNA...?
IDOU?
...
YOU AND SEEU WERE ONCE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
YES, BUT HE PROBABLY DOESN'T THINK SO.
BUT, TELL ME...
WAS SEEU ALWAYS THIS COLD-BLOODED?
NO.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
HE SIMPLY HAS EXCEPTIONAL POWERS.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, SEEU.


I COULDN'T STOP THEM FROM FLEEING.
AND SEEU DEFLECTED MORE THAN HALF OF MY BLOWS.
COLLAPSER!!
THAT ROBOT HAD A WHIP.
BUT I TRIED TO KEEP THEM FROM ESCAPING BY USING THE POWER OF THE ZENITH GRID.
UNGH...
THEY WERE STILL ABLE TO GET AWAY.
FEEL LIKE MOVING, EH?


WE EXCHANGED SO MANY BLOWS...
!!
I'VE GOT HIM!!
...
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD MY SOLDIERS KATORASU AND SARITA THAT FROM THE START.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR 300 YEARS?
YOUR SKILLS ARE LACKING, SEEU!
I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO LET HIM ESCAPE.
IDOU !!
WHEN SEEU DECIDED TO USE THE POWER OF HIS LUNA,
I THOUGHT I HAD A CHANCE.
AFTER ALL, HE COULDN'T TRAVEL WITH BOTH HIS WEAPON AND KAGUYA!
WHAT A PAIN
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BACK-TRACK NOW.
OUR FIGHT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE A SHOCK TO NORMAL PEOPLE.


NO ONE.
NO ONE CAN GET TO SEEU.
MAYBE THAT ABOMINABLE TOY, AT BEST.
NOT IN THE PAST,
AND NOT NOW.
!!
WAIT!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER ENCOUNTERED A BEING WITH SUCH HATE FOR ME.
HOW CAN I DESCRIBE HIM?
AND THAT DOLL-LIKE BOY.
I NOTICED
I GOT GOOSE BUMPS THE MOMENT I GRABBED SEEU'S ARM.
I WAS ABLE TO PULL FREE FROM A TERRIFIC FORCE.

...I THINK I MIGHT KNOW WHY YOU WERE BLINDFOLDED IN THE BEGINNING.
YOU KNOW...
SEEU ALWAYS STANDS ALONE.
IT'S YOUR GAZE.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOUR OWNER TO BE WATCHED
BY YOUR DOLL-LIKE EYES.
YOUR FACE! FOR A MOMENT,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HUMAN.
SOME-HOW I REMEMBER YOUR FACE HOW DO I KNOW YOU?
BUT YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING AT ME, OR ANYTHING.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ALIVE...
SO, UM-

YEP, YOUR LOOK IS A BIT STRANGE!
I THINK YOU NEED A NEW STYLE.
HERE, LET'S TAKE THESE BLACK HANGING THINGS OFF!!
YOU KNOW, I EVEN WEAR THAT TO SCHOOL EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
GOOD THING YOU'RE MY SIZE.

HMM...
YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S STUPID OF ME
TO TALK SO MUCH.
I'M SORRY.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. YOU ARE JUST A TOY DOLL, ANYWAY.

DO YOU BELONG TO THAT MAN?
THE SCARY ONE WITH THE LONG, RED HAIR?

I WONDER WHO YOU WERE MODELED AFTER.
AND RIGHT DOWN TO THE FINEST DETAIL, NO LESS.

OH, HOW CUTE!
YOU LOOK SO ADORABLE DRESSED LIKE THAT!

THE SKIRT LOOKS REALLY CUTE,

BUT PANTS MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE

ARE YOU COMFORT-ABLE?

What should I do?

YOU ARE A BOY, THOUGH

RIGHT?

What should I do?

ARE YOU COVERED UP ENOUGH?

SORRY,

WOULD YOU MIND COVERING YOUR EYES?

OKAY, IT'S TIME TO SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE

MAYBE THERE'S A VILLAGE NEARBY

COME WITH ME!

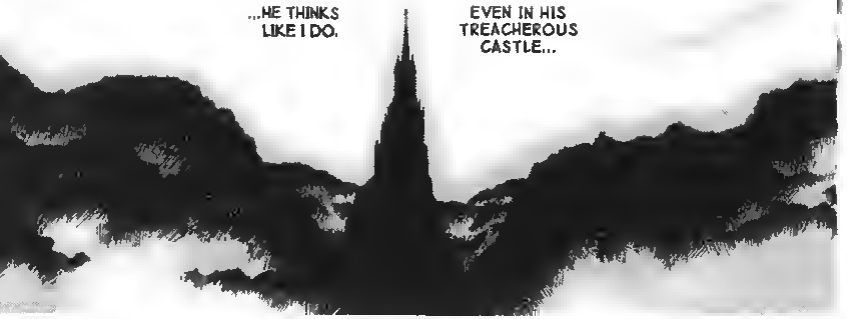
BEING WITH YOU IS STRANGE, BUT BEING ALONE IS WORSE

IT WAS A FORGOTTEN GRAVE MARKER.
THE MAD PRINCE WITH THE SILVER SICKLE LIVED IN A HIDDEN PLACE ON THE REMAINS OF A TOMB.
300 YEARS AGO.

LUNAR MERCURY.

I COMPLETED MY MISSION.
JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO.
I WENT TO DELIVER THE INFORMATION ON KAGUYA TO PRINCE SEEU.
GOOD WORK, HARRY.
AND...
...WHAT DID SEEU DO THEN?
IT'S NOT WHAT HE DID!
I KNEW ABOUT SEEU'S TWISTED CASTLE THING.
IT GAVE ME THE CREEPS ALL OVER THE GROUND THERE WERE THESE...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF MY FRAGILE HEART HAD STOPPED?!
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE LANDED.
HER WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.
THANKS TO THE COLLAPSER INCIDENT, OF COURSE.
I THINK SO.
RELAX. THERE'S NOTHING THAT COULD HURT YOU
DID SEEU MAKE HIS MOVE?
IT'S THE SAME SET-UP AS THE SEVENTH WORLD, YOU KNOW.
BUT, HE WASN'T ABLE TO CAPTURE THE GIRL.

DON'T BE STUPID
INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT TRIVIAL THINGS..
..STOP EMBARRASSING ME AND GET TO WORK.
SO SAYS THE SAGE MESHIE RARAKOTTO..


...HE THINKS LIKE I DO.
EVEN IN HIS TREACHEROUS CASTLE...

NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET TO HER BEFORE THE SEVENTH WORLD DOES
THEY'RE ALREADY SENDING OUT SEARCH ORDERS
AND EVEN IF THE SEVENTH WORLD ISN'T AS STRONG AS THEY USED TO BE, THEY'RE STILL EXTREMELY POWERFUL.
BESIDES, THEY WON THE WAR. AND THEY HAVE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION

I HAVE WAYS OF MONITORING THE SEVEHTH WORLD'S ACTIONS
WE CAN CATCH THEM IN THE ACT.

GOOD.
IF THAT'S OUR ONLY OPTION

WELL,
IF ANYTHING CHANGES, MAKE SURE YOU LET SEEU KNOW ABOUT IT.
WHAT?! YOU MUST BE JOKING!
NO MATTER HOW LOYAL I AM TO YOU, I AM NOT GOING BACK TO THAT CASTLE.
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF I GET KILLED?!

IT'S SO IRONIC...

WHILE WE PRAY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PLANET GEO...

...THERE IS A GIRL WHO IS WONDERING WHERE SHE IS AND WHAT TO DO NEXT.

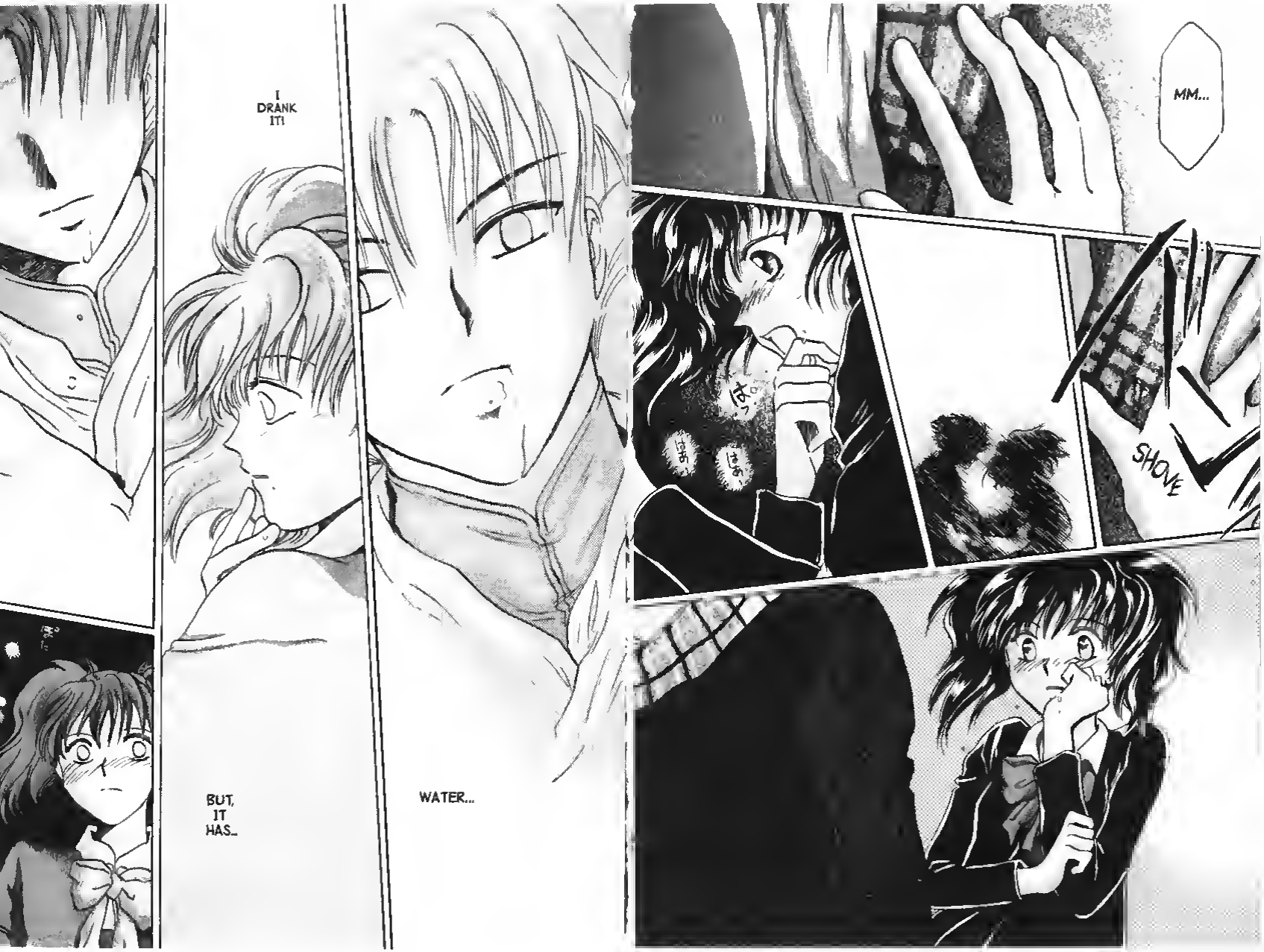
BUT, SHE WON'T LIVE MUCH LONGER...

WELL...
UM.
HOW DO YOU THINK WE COULD PURIFY THE WATER?
I WANT TO DRINK IT, BUT.
At times like these!!
FILTRATION!!
I NEED TO FIND SOME WAY TO FILTER OR BOIL THIS WATER!!
HMMM ...!
HMMM
THERE ARE FISH.
THAT MEANS IT'S NOT POISONOUS
BUT, IT'S PROBABLY BETTER NOT TO DRINK
SINCE IT ISN'T CLEAN WATER.
And it's pretty too
WHAT?
I FORGET THE RIGHT WAY TO DO THIS.
BUT I'LL FIGURE IT OUT MYSELF!
AH-
I'VE GOT TO USE SOMETHING TO HOLD THE WATER
Wonder if this plastic bag will do.

I CAN ALMOST TASTE IT!
BUT, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
OH...
?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MR. DOLL?
AH!
WAIT!

LIST OF THINGS I BROUGHT
I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A CONTAINER, IF I KNEW.
OUT OF ALL MY STUFF, THERE'S NO WATER.
.....
BUT IT SAYS THIS BAG IS FLAMMABLE
HM...
OH!
I DIDN'T DRINK MY SMALL BOTTLE! I'LL TAKE THAT.

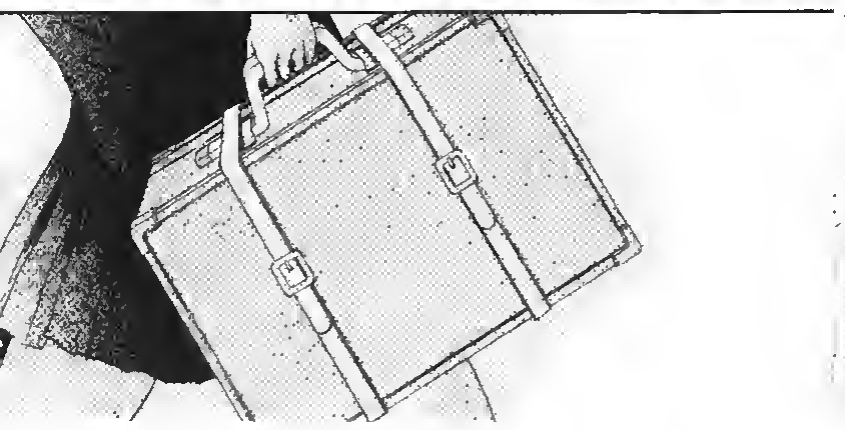
YOU PUT YOUR WHOLE HEAD IN THE WATER!
ARE YOU THIRSTY?
BE CAREFUL!
YOU'RE SOAKING...
ピキピキ
ぽたぽた
Mm
Hmph
Mm

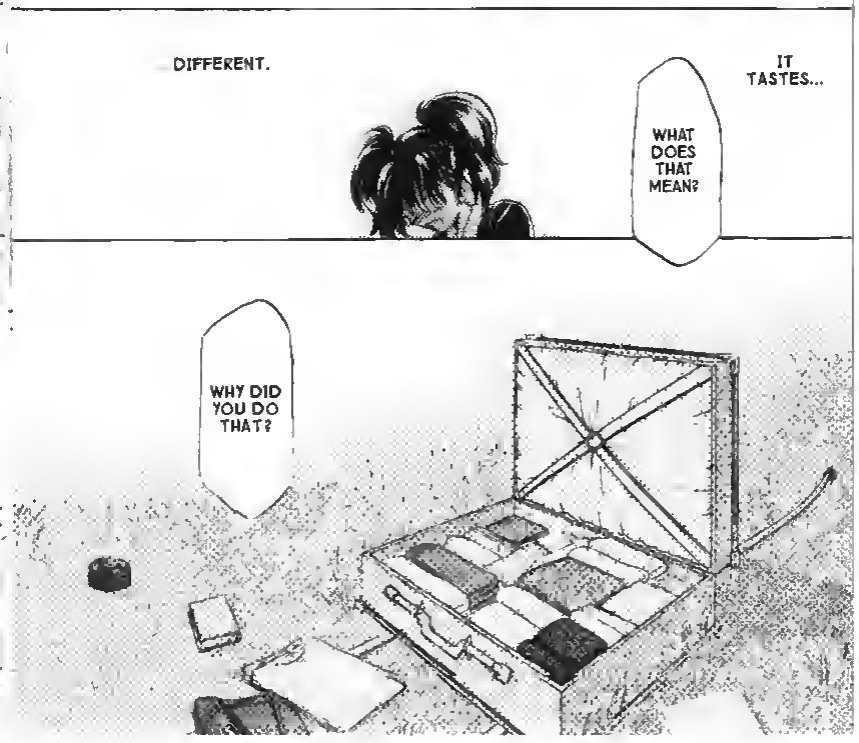

MM...
SHOVE
I DRANK IT!
WATER...
BUT, IT HAS..

BUT, MY SCIENCE PROJECT COMES TO MIND
I DON'T KNOW WHY.

THE TASTE..
BUT, HOW?
HOW STRANGE!

#7




...DIFFERENT.
IT TASTES...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

LOOK
LOOK
LOOK
YOU.. YOU LISTENED?!
IT'S THAT OWNER OF YOURS!
HMPH_
My imagination has reached its limit!
BUT, THAT'S NOT THE WAY YOU MAKE ME DRINK IT!
I GET IT! WHAT YOU DID BACK THERE
WAS BECAUSE I SAID I WANTED TO DRINK THE WATER.
I KNOW THAT
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A LOT OF THINGS.
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN,
BUT_
..JUST DON'T COME WITHIN 10 STEPS OF MEI
IT'S NOT THAT..
I'M MAD AT YOU FOR KISSING ME.

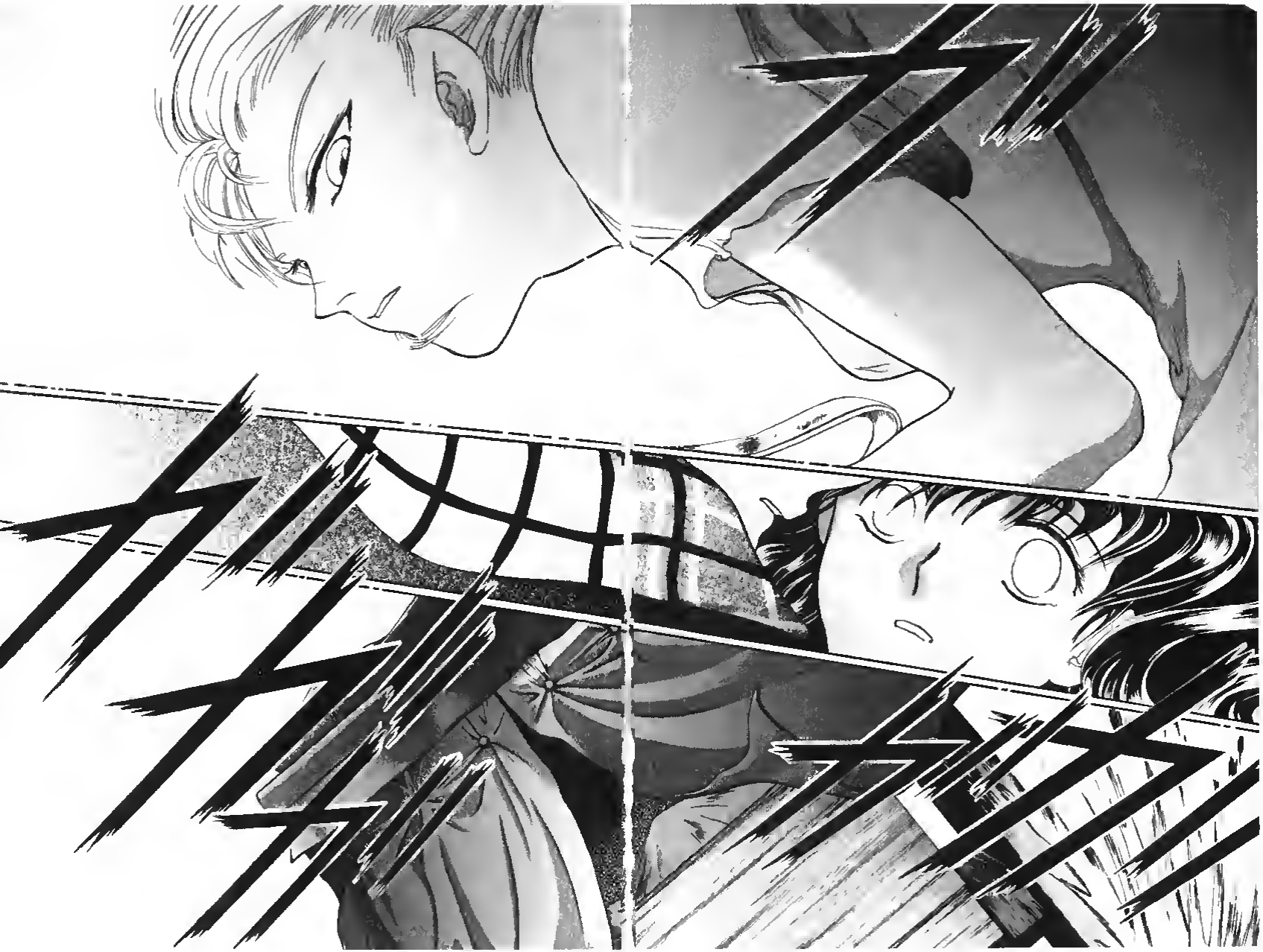
...THE SCIENCE ROOM?

...WHY DID IT REMIND ME OF...

THE SUN IS GOING DOWN

A ROAD!
THIS WAY!
I'M SO EXCITED!
THERE MUST BE PEOPLE NEARBY.
MR DOLL, BRING DOWN THE TRUNK!!

HELP!!
WHAT'S THAT?
IS THAT THE SOUND OF
THUNDER?



UM...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY 10 STEPS AWAY FROM ME ANYMORE.
I changed my mind again.
THAT WAS SO COFUSING!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE BLOOD, BUT...
WHAT'S THIS RED STUFF?
...SWEAT?
IS IT RED...
ARE YOU OKAY?
THERE WAS A PERSON ON THAT CARRIAGE.
SHE WOULD NOT STOP!
back 10 steps again
A.. HORSE CARRIAGE?
HOW STRANGE!
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ONE OF THOSE!

A SILVER CARRIAGE..
AND A GIRL WHOSE FACE JUST BURNS INTO YOUR MEMORY.
THERE IT IS!
THIS TIME, IT'S MOVING SLOWER.
SHE HAD SILVERY HAIR
AND BEAUTIFUL HORSES.

Y'KNOW, I HEARD THE THIRD WORLD IS AN UGLY PLACE.
NO MATTER FROM WHERE YOU LOOK AT IT, THE MOON IS THE SAME,
RIGHT, IDOU?
OR, ARE HUMANS STILL LIVING THERE?
WAS IT ABANDON-ED?
IDOU...
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT?

I GUESS WE REALLY ARE IN SOME OTHER LAND.

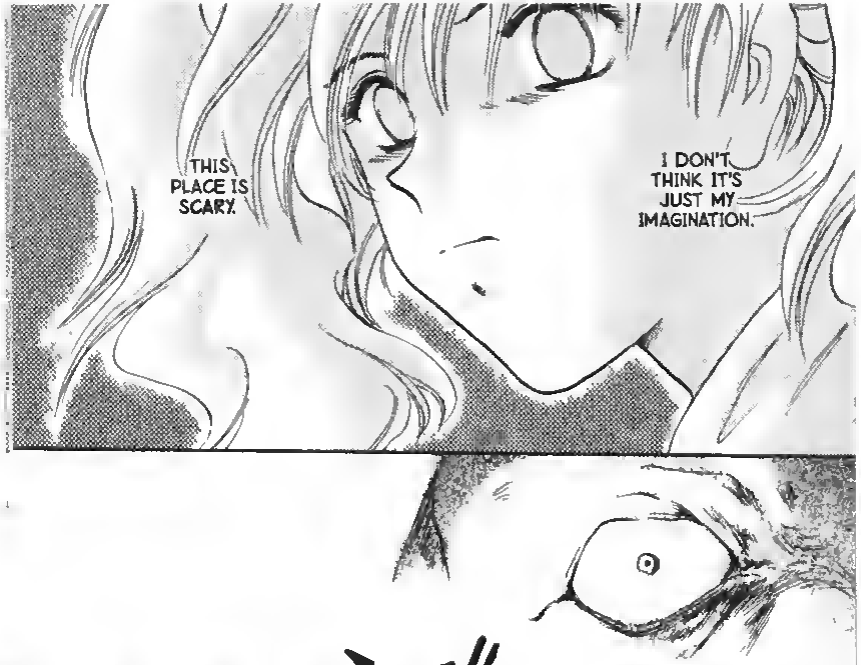
BUT,
RIGHT NOW I'M WORRIED ABOUT KAGUYA.
THE SEVENTH WORLD HAS THEIR BELIEFS,
AND I HAVE MINE.
IF WE'RE LUCKY AND SHE LANDED NEAR A VILLAGE, THEY WOULDN'T HELP HER, EITHER.
IF SHE FELL INTO THE OCEAN OR GOT LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS, NO ONE WOULD HELP HER.
BUT, OUR HUNT MUST GO ON

I KNOW, THIS HUNT FOR THE GIRL IS SO HARD.
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET THAT WE WERE NOT ABLE TO BRING KAGUYA BACK WITH US
BUT, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE ON YOUR MIND.
CAN YOU POSSIBLY BELIEVE THE WORDS OF A MAN WHO BETRAYED HIS OWN COUNTRY?
YOU DIDN'T LET HER FALL INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S HANDS, DID YOU?
DON'T SAY THAT, SARITA.
SEVENTH WORLD PEOPLE ARE COLD I HATE THEM!
BUT, IT'S TERRIBLE!
AT LEAST THE SONG PRINCESSES WARNED HER, BUT.

I'M SO THIRSTY, I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE HAVING A SNACK OR ANYTHING.
I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO DRINK FOR SO LONG!
MY THROAT HURTS
Cough
BUT SERIOUSLY, I DON'T FEEL SO WELL. MY HEAD HURTS.
I MIGHT GET SKINNIER!
MAYBE I'LL LOSE WEIGHT.
BUT, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO OPEN MY SUITCASE IN FRONT OF THESE STRANGERS!
I'LL PUT ON MY CARDIGAN.
I SHOULD KEEP WARM.
EXCUSE ME.
UM..
WAS SLOW ENOUGH TO FOLLOW ALL THE WAY HERE.
THAT HORSE CARRIAGE
WHAT SHOULD I DO? THEY DON'T RESPOND TO ANYTHING I SAY!
THE FACES ON THESE PEOPLE..
BUT,

ヒソヒソ
ヒソヒソ
ヒソヒソ
ヒソヒソ
...
SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT...
THIS IS NO GOOD...
QUIET! YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED BABBLING SINCE YOU GOT HERE
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IT'S USELESS?
WHAT?
IS THAT JAPANESE?
AH...
EXCUSE ME.
DO WE LOOK LIKE WE WERE BORN WITH A COMPUTER CHIP OR SOMETHING?
WE DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR LANGUAGE IS INCOM-PREHENSIBLE
MAYBE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF PRINCESS OR SOMETHING.
A CHIP?
BUT I UNDER-STAND YOU!

OKAY, MR. DOLL,
COME WITH ME.
UH,
WELL! SO . ALRIGHTY
I'M JUST
GOING TO THE REST-ROOM!

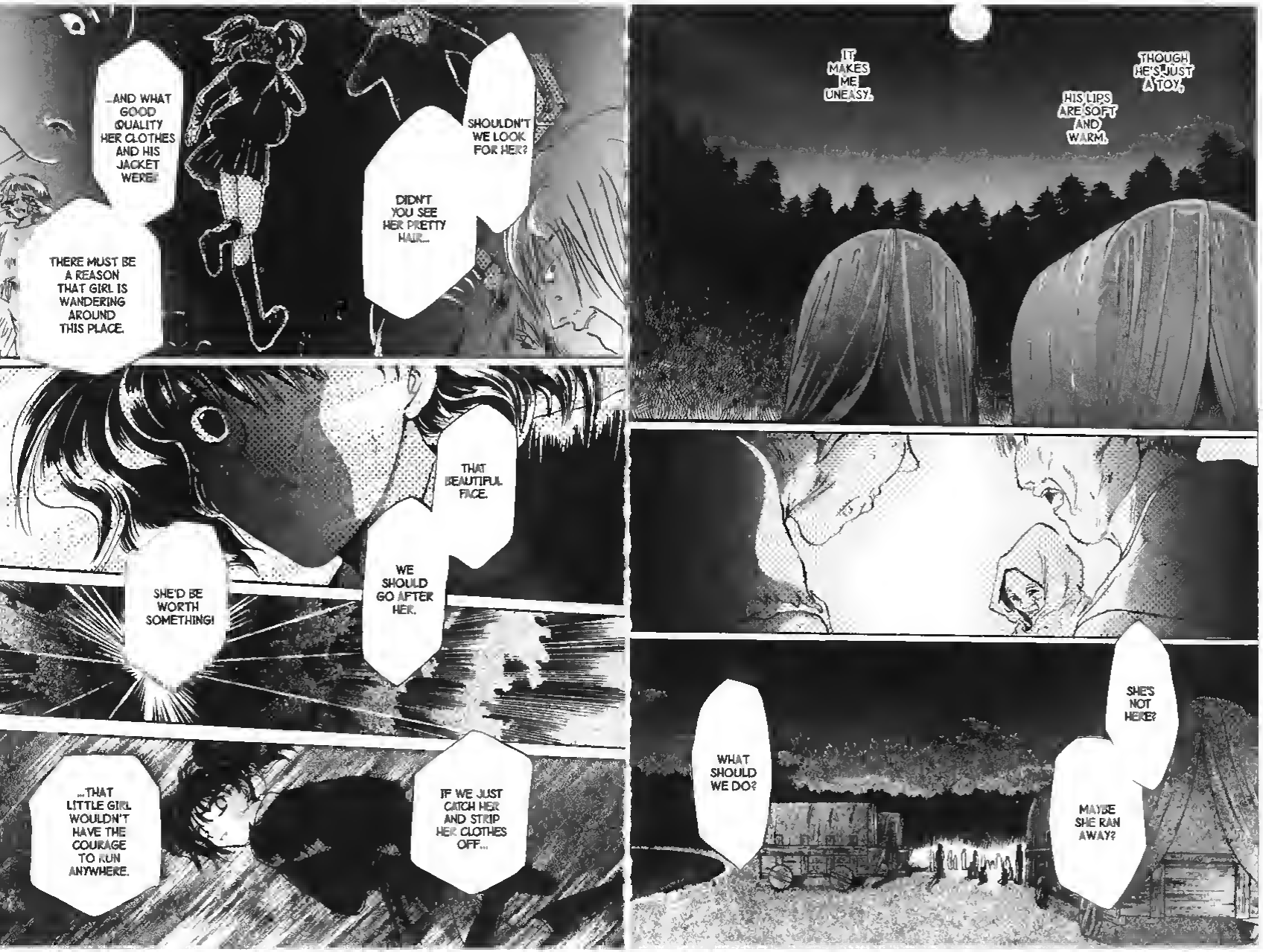

THIS PLACE IS SCARY.
I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION.

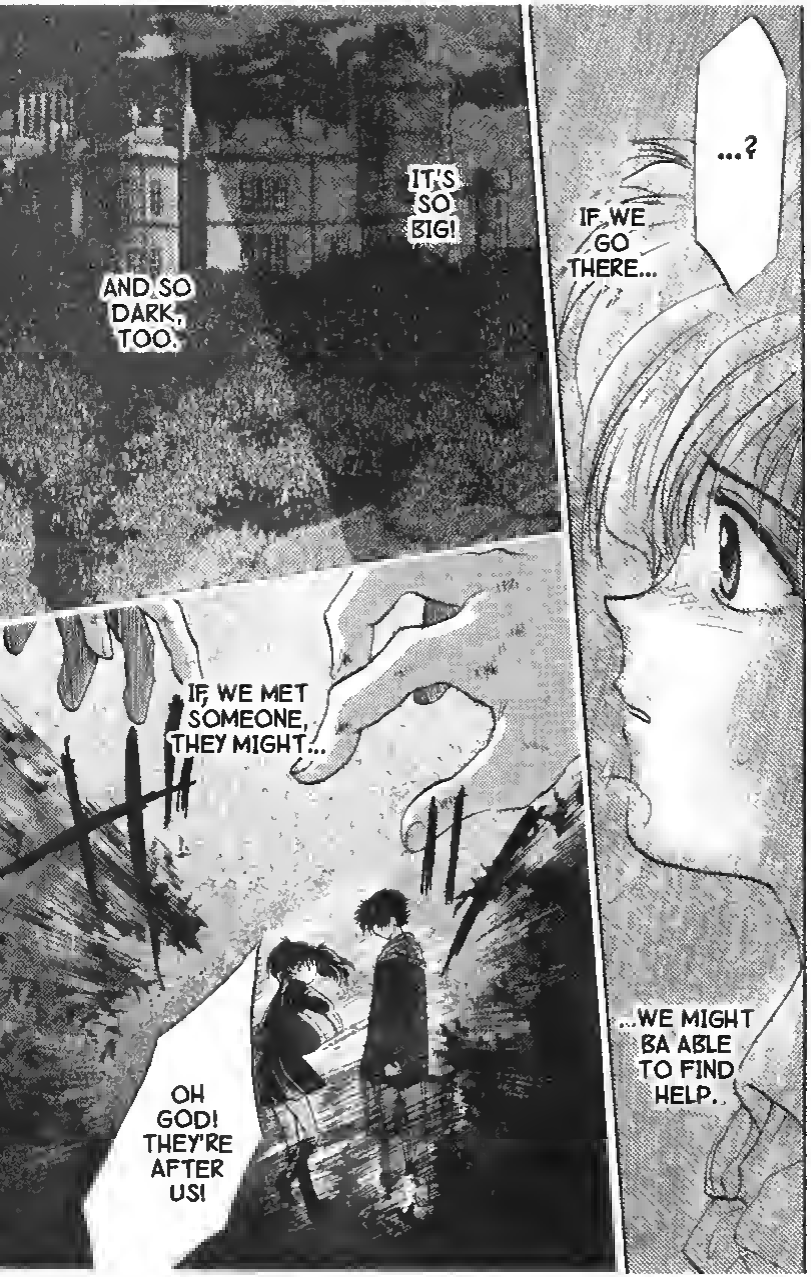
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
...WE COULD STUDY IT!
IF YOU REMOVE IT...
A CHIP?
IN THE HEAD...

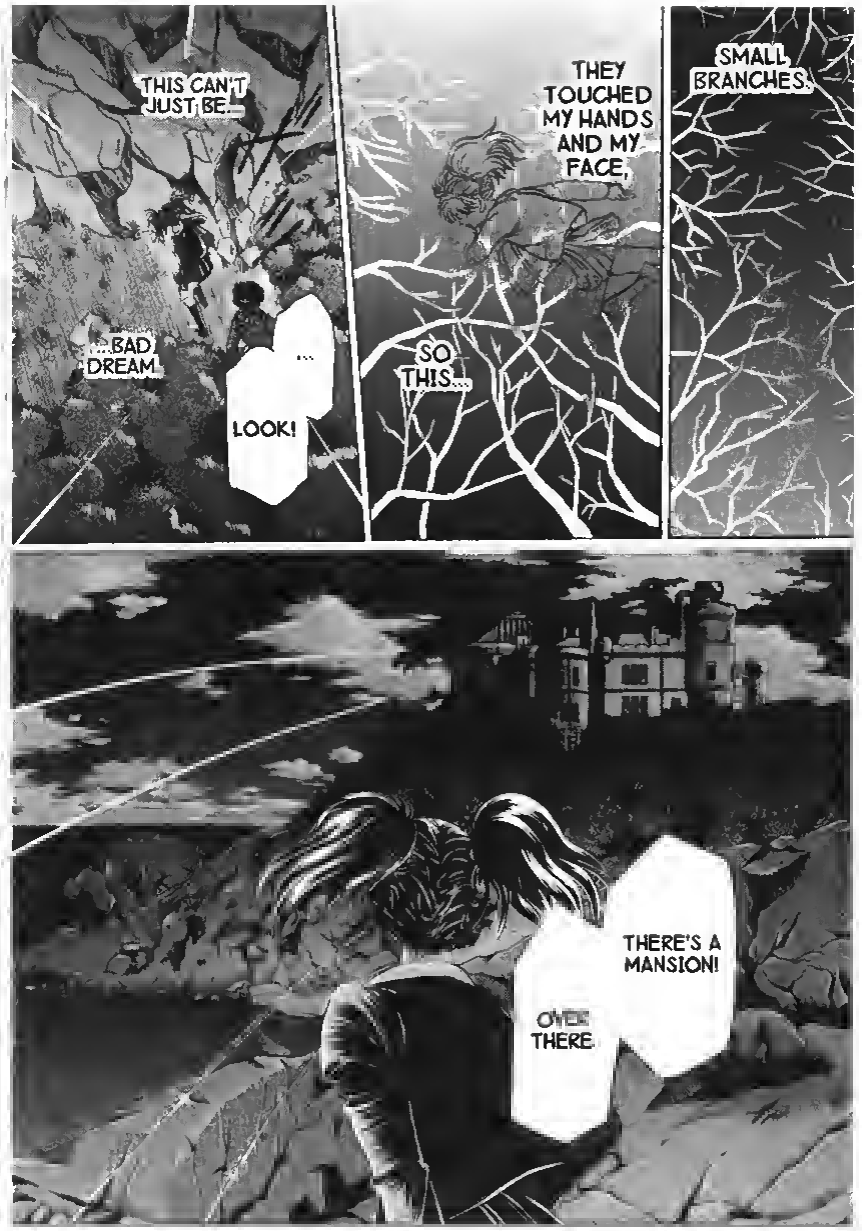
WE GOTTA GET AWAY!!

THIS HAS NO TASTE WHATSOEVER. IT'S STRANGE...
I GUESS THIS IS BETTER THAN DRINKING DIRTY WATER.
FILTRATION..
UM...
THIS ISN'T REALLY A KISS, BUT...
HE REALLY LISTENS...
TO ANYTHING I SAY.
...JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES.

I THINK THE TWO OF US SHOULD RUN AWAY NOW!
THANK YOU FOR THE DRINK.
IT'S JUST LIKE THE WATER WE MADE IN THE SCIENCE ROOM.
HOW WEIRD!
YOU'RE NOT AS SCARY AS THOSE PEOPLE ARE.
YOU'RE JUST A TOY.
AND YOU WERE NICE ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THAT WATER

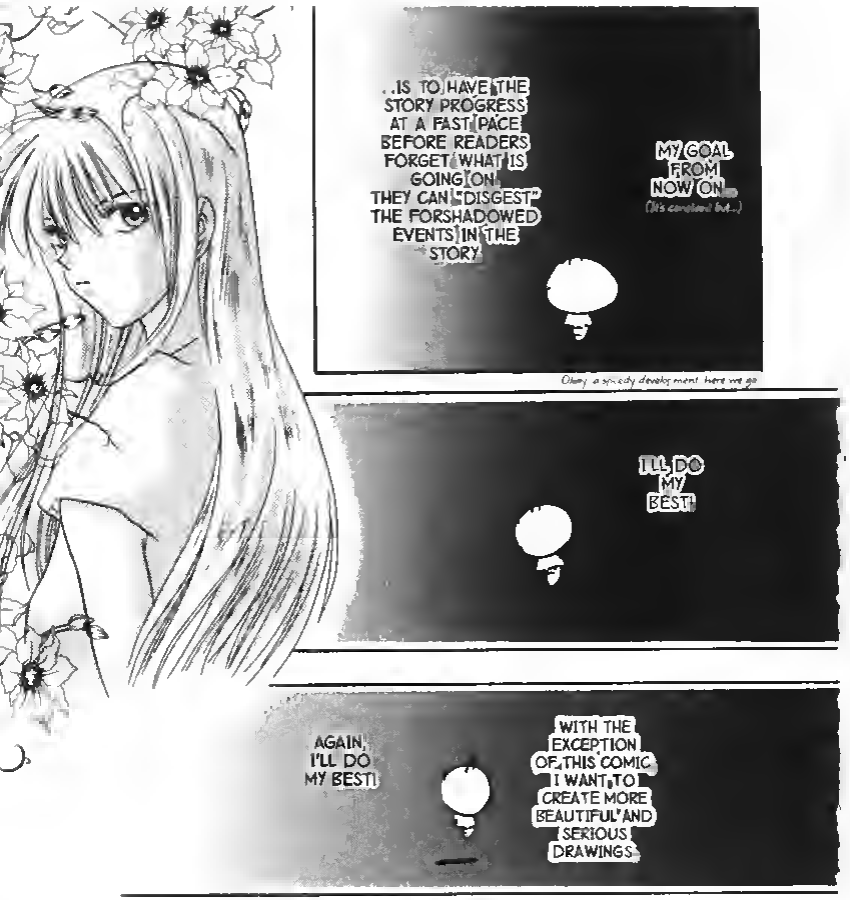

...AND WHAT GOOD QUALITY HER CLOTHES AND HIS JACKET WERE!
THERE MUST BE A REASON THAT GIRL IS WANDERING AROUND THIS PLACE.
SHOULDN'T WE LOOK FOR HER?
DIDN'T YOU SEE HER PRETTY HAIR...
IT MAKES ME UNEASY.
THOUGH HE'S JUST A TOY,
HIS LIPS ARE SOFT AND WARM.
THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE.
SHE'D BE WORTH SOMETHING!
WE SHOULD GO AFTER HER.
...THAT LITTLE GIRL WOULDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO RUN ANYWHERE.
IF WE JUST CATCH HER AND STRIP HER CLOTHES OFF...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHE'S NOT HERE?
MAYBE SHE RAN AWAY?

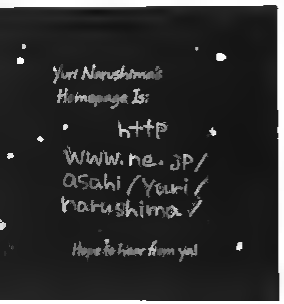

IT'S SO BIG!
AND SO DARK, TOO.
IF WE GO THERE...
...?
IF WE MET SOMEONE, THEY MIGHT...
...WE MIGHT BA ABLE TO FIND HELP..
OH GOD! THEY'RE AFTER US!


THIS CAN'T JUST BE...
...BAD DREAM.
...
LOOK!
THEY TOUCHED MY HANDS AND MY FACE.
SO THIS...
SMALL BRANCHES.
THERE'S A MANSION!
OVER THERE.

To be Continued

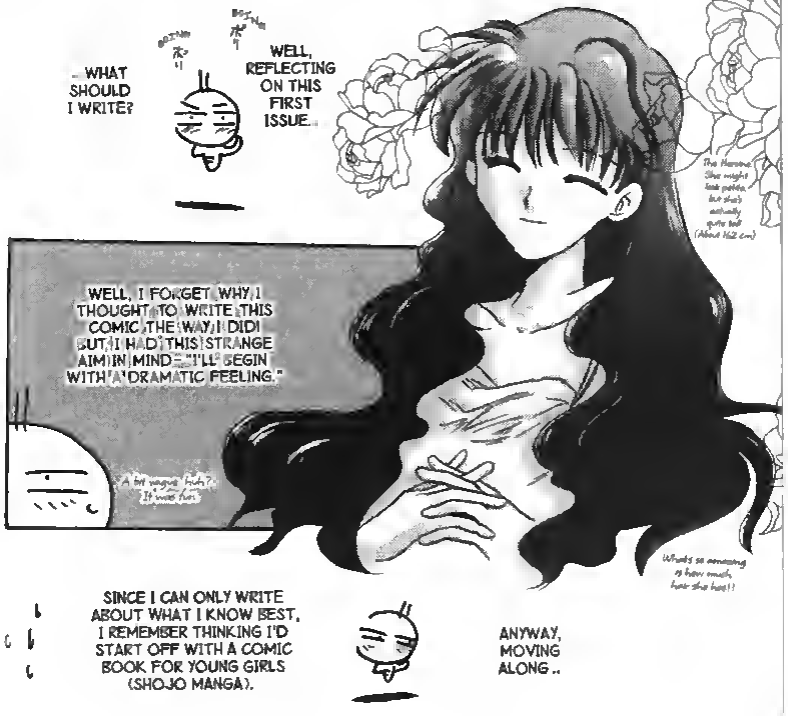
...HELP US!

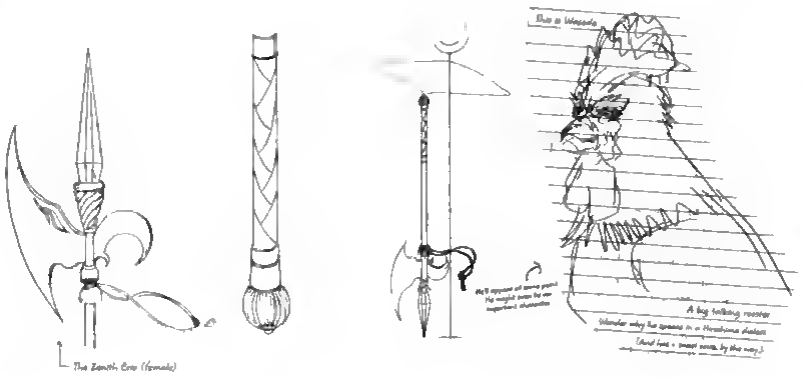

...IS TO HAVE THE STORY PROGRESS AT A FAST PACE BEFORE READERS FORGET WHAT IS GOING ON! THEY CAN "DISGEST" THE FORSHADOWED EVENTS IN THE STORY.
MY GOAL FROM NOW ON... (It's constant but...)
Okay, a speedy development here we go
I'LL DO MY BEST!
AGAIN, I'LL DO MY BEST!
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THIS COMIC I WANT TO CREATE MORE BEAUTIFUL AND SERIOUS DRAWINGS.


Yuri Narushima's Homepage Is:
http
www.ne.jp/asahi/yuri/narushima/
Hope to hear from ya!

I'LL DO MY BEST!
I WANNA LOSE WEIGHT.

Whoa!
CRIMSON
NEW ISSUE!
ばちばちばちばち
C-C-CR...
YEAH!
C....
POSTSCRIPT!!


...WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?
WELL, REFLECTING ON THIS FIRST ISSUE...
The Heroine: She might look petite, but she's actually quite tall (About 162 cm)
WELL, I FORGET WHY I THOUGHT TO WRITE THIS COMIC THE WAY I DID! BUT, I HAD THIS STRANGE AIM IN MIND..."I'LL BEGIN WITH A DRAMATIC FEELING."
A bit vague, huh? It was fun.
What's so amazing is how much hair she has!!
SINCE I CAN ONLY WRITE ABOUT WHAT I KNOW BEST, I REMEMBER THINKING I'D START OFF WITH A COMIC BOOK FOR YOUNG GIRLS (SHOJO MANGA).
ANYWAY, MOVING ALONG..


The Zenith Cross (Female)
Blue is telepathy
A big talking rooster
Wonder why he speaks in a Hiroshima dialect
(And has a sweet voice, by the way.)

By the way, besides being just weapons, these guys talk too ...!

(Sadness. Why don't I?)

They started off as just weapons, or tools (except Gold) but having them as inanimate objects was unexpectedly really embarrassing ^^;)

If you think about the names, it's not embarrassing at all! In my heart, each of these has a voice of its own. That's the conclusion I came to

(I mixed some strange things)

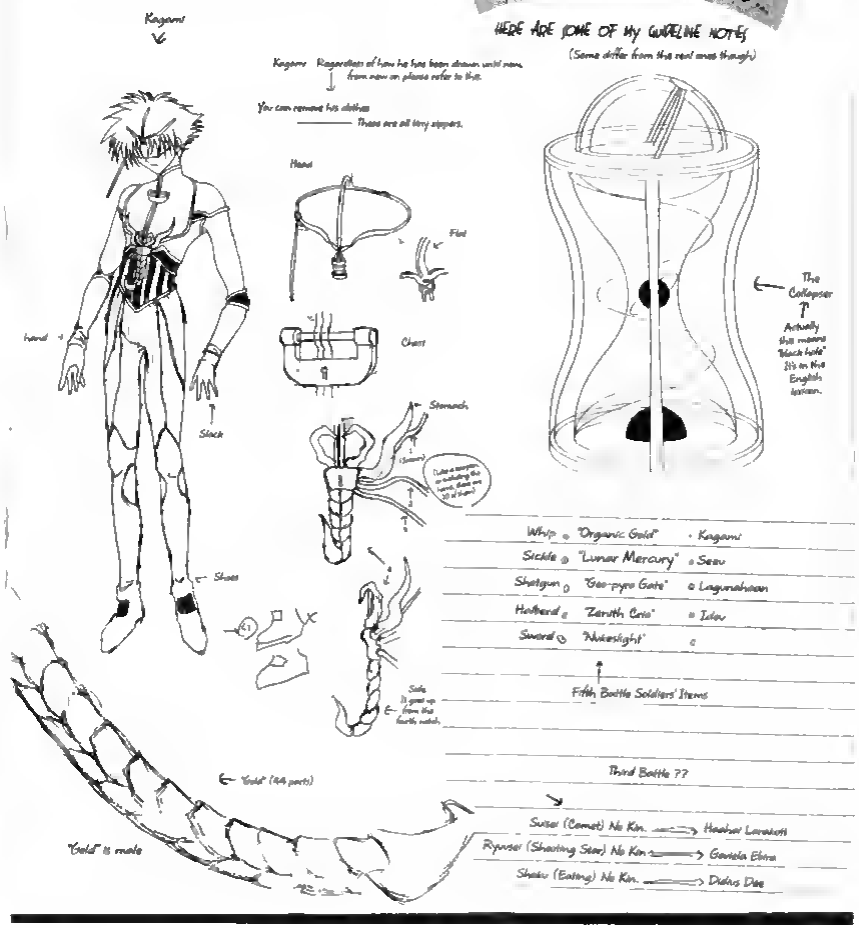
If you categorize this story, more than Fantasy it fits into the Retro Sci Fi category (though we are still trying to figure out where to draw the line) In any case I want it to be interesting and easy to understand And there are still many more scenes I want to draw so...

Keep on Reading!!

AND THAT MEANS...

HERE ARE SOME OF MY GUIDELINE NOTES

(Some differ from the real ones though)



Whip	"Organic Gold"	Kagami
Sickle	"Lunar Mercury"	Seou
Shotgun	"Geo-pyro Gate"	Lagunahwan
Halberd	"Zenith Cross"	Idou
Sword	"Nukesight"	

Fifth Battle Soldiers' Items

Third Battle ??

Suisei (Comet) No Kin. → Hoshou Lovaloth

Ryusei (Shooting Star) No Kin. → Gamela Elvira

Shoku (Eating) No Kin. → Didus Dios

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I see the tarot cards in my dreams. I turn them over in hopes of finding all the answers – Who am I? Where do I come from? Why are these people after me? But when I turn over the last card, it is always blank. My name is Kaguya. I thought I was an ordinary high-school girl. That is, until a crazy warrior appeared in my bedroom one night and transported me to another planet where people call me princess. Now, the questions in my dream are more urgent than ever. Will I ever get home again...or is *this* my home?

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